

# Nehemiah 8:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.

## Analysis

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**And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.**

This verse within Nehemiah 8 addresses themes of Scripture centrality, teaching, understanding, worship. The public Scripture reading demonstrates how spiritual renewal requires understanding God's Word, not mere ritual observance. This passage demonstrates biblical principles applicable across both testaments—God's sovereignty combined with human responsibility, faith expressed through obedient action, and the necessity of both individual and corporate commitment to covenant faithfulness. Nehemiah models leadership that combines vision, prayer, courage, integrity, and perseverance amid sustained opposition.

## Historical Context

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Nehemiah's account occurs during Persian imperial dominance (539-331 BC), specifically 445-433 BC under Artaxerxes I. The spiritual reforms under Ezra and Nehemiah shaped Judaism for centuries, establishing Scripture's centrality and

patterns of worship continuing into the intertestamental period and beyond. The Persian period was crucial transitional time when Jewish identity shifted from monarchical nationalism to Torah-centered covenantal community. Without political independence, the people's cohesion depended on shared scripture, temple worship, and covenant obedience. This established patterns persisting through the Second Temple period into New Testament times. Understanding this context illuminates Jesus's ministry among a people shaped by these reforms and challenges.

## **Related Passages**

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## **Study Questions**

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1. How does regular engagement with Scripture transform understanding of God and His will for your life?
2. What specific commitments do you need to make (or renew) regarding Bible reading, worship, and obedience?
3. How can the principles demonstrated in this passage inform your response to current challenges in your life or church?

## Interlinear Text

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הַכֹּהֵן וְ	וְעֶזְרָא	הַתִּרְשָׁתָּה	הָוָא	נְחֵמְיָהּ	וַיֹּאמֶר
the priest	and Ezra	which is the Tirshatha		And Nehemiah	said
H3548	H5830	H8660	H1931	H5166	H559
לְכָל	הָעָם	אֶת	הַמְּבִינִים	וְהַלְוִיִּם	הַסֹּפֵר
For all the people			that taught	and the Levites	the scribe
H3605	H5971	H853	H995	H3881	H5608
אֵל	אֱלֹהֶיכֶם	לְיְהוָה	הוּא	קֹדֶשׁ	הַיּוֹם
	your God	unto the LORD		is holy	This day
H408	H430	H3068	H1931	H6918	H3117
הָעָם	כָּל	בּוֹכִים	כִּי	בּוֹכִים	וְאֵל
For all the people		not nor weep		not nor weep	mourn
H5971	H3605	H1058	H3588	H1058	H56
					H408
הַתּוֹכָה:	דְּבַר	אֶת	כְּשִׁמְעָם		
of the law	the words		when they heard		
H8451	H1697	H853	H8085		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Nehemiah 7:70** (Parallel theme): And some of the chief of the fathers gave unto the work. The Tirshatha gave to the treasure a thousand drams of gold, fifty basons, five hundred and thirty priests' garments.

**Nehemiah 7:65** (Holy): And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and Thummim.

**Nehemiah 8:2** (Word): And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

**Deuteronomy 12:12** (References God): And ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your

maidservants, and the Levite that is within your gates; forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you.

**Deuteronomy 12:7** (References God): And there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee.

**Deuteronomy 16:11** (References God): And thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you, in the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to place his name there.

**Leviticus 23:24** (Holy): Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

**Ezra 2:63** (Holy): And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim.