

From Ruin to Revival

A Study of the Book of Nehemiah

LESSON EIGHT Introduction: Example: William Wilberforce. Having now achieved his single great objective, those looking on might have imagined that rebuilding the wall and revitalizing the city was all that Nehemiah had in mind. He indeed wanted to rebuild the wall, but he also had the far more significant objective of rebuilding **the nation**. The wall was merely the first step in the process. What was left was the spiritual renewal of the nation, and that begins with the **Word of God**.

1. **The Word brings **agreement** among believers (v.1).**
2. **The Word brings **attention** to itself (v.2-5a).**
 - a. Its importance was signified by the **time devoted to reading** (v.3).
 - b. Its importance was signified by the **pulpit of wood** (v.4a).
 - c. Its importance was signified by the **Levities standing by** (v.4b).
3. **The Word brings **adoration** to God (v.5b-6).**
 - a. The people **stood** in reverence for the open Word (v.5b).
 - b. The priest blessed the Lord for His **greatness** (v.6a).
 - c. The people praised the Lord for the **revealed Word** (v.6b)
 - i. The people **answered "Amen"**
 - ii. The people **lifted their hands**
 - iii. The people **worshiped**
4. **The Word brings **application** to life (v.7-9).**
 - a. The **reading** of the Scripture (or **presentation**)
 - b. The **revealing** of the Scripture (or **illumination**)
 - c. The **relating** of the Scripture (or **application**)
 - d. The **receiving** of the Scripture (or **appropriation**-v.13-18)

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5. The Word brings **awareness** of sin (v.9b).
6. The Word brings **assistance** to the needy (v.10).
7. The Word brings **attributes** of joy (v.10b, 17b).
 - a. The **Source** of Joy.
 - i. It is rooted in the **person** of Christ.
 - ii. It is rooted in the **provision** of Christ.
 - iii. It is rooted in our **prospect** in Christ.
 - iv. It is rooted in our **peace** with Christ.
 - v. It is rooted in our **partnership** with Christ
 - b. The **Strength** of Joy.
 - i. It is our strength against **sin**.
 - ii. It is our strength for **service**.
 - c. The **Results** of Joy.
 - i. It leads to great **singing**.
 - ii. It leads to great **sacrifice**.
 - iii. It leads to great **families**.

Conclusion: There is no doubt that our nation needs revival. It is up to us to be that voice crying in the wilderness for our fellow citizens to turn back to God. May we never, however, turn our backs on the Word of God, but stand in reverence of it both in private praise and public proclamation!