

NEHEMIAH 8

Introduction

And they lived happily ever after. The end. That's the way you'd kind of like to leave the book of Nehemiah. They rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem and dedicated them to the Lord. They were filled with joy and gladly served the Lord in faith. And Nehemiah and his fellow Jews lived happily ever after. The end. As you might have heard people say, "There are no happily ever after's in this life." Well, I might not be quite that cynical, the stories of our lives are not always happy. That unfortunately was the case for God's people following the dedication of Jerusalem's walls. While there was much joy and gratefulness, the people sadly began to return to their formerly sinful and spiritually rebellious ways that pushed God to the back. Let's see what happened in days and years following Nehemiah's rebuilding and dedicating the walls of Jerusalem.

We're going to go back to Nehemiah chapter 8 which describe events that seem to have taken place shortly after Jerusalem's walls were completed and dedicated.

Nehemiah 7:73b-8:8

1. Compare the timing of this event (8:2) to the timing of the completion of Jerusalem's walls (6:15).
2. Taking into consideration what Leviticus said, how did the people rightfully celebrate their new year?
3. How did the people demonstrate their reverence when Ezra started reading the Bible?
4. What did the Levites do as Ezra read the Book of the Law to the assembly?

Nehemiah 8:9-12

5. Why were the people begin mourning on this day of sacred assembly?
6. How did Nehemiah respond to their mourning and why?

Nehemiah 8:13-18

7. What did the Jews learn and then do as they listened to Ezra read the law?