

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Chapter 8

For vs 1-12—

1. What takes place during the seventh month following Chapter 7?
 - a. Who is involved and where are they? What description is given about these people?

2. What is Ezra the scribe asked to do? What does he do in response?
 - a. Who is gathered and when does this take place?
 - b. What is significant about this date regarding Jewish custom? How can this be known?

3. What does Ezra begin doing and when does he do this? Where is this taking place?
 - a. Who, specifically, is involved and what does it say their response is to what Ezra is doing?

4. Who else is with Ezra when he begins? Where are all of them located?
 - a. Why do you think these other men are standing up with Ezra?

5. What does Ezra do in sight of all the people gathered?
 - a. What is the people's response when he does this?
 - b. What does this indicate or speak to you about, personally?

6. What does Ezra do next and what are the responses of the people?
 - a. What picture is described here? Why do you think the people respond this way?

7. Who else joins Ezra and for what reason? What does it say they do in verse 8?
 - a. Why do you think this would be necessary?
 - b. In what way is this similar to what often takes place in many churches today?

8. What do Nehemiah, Ezra and the Levites say to the people being taught?
 - a. Why was this necessary? What were the people doing?

Page 2 – Chapter 8

- 9.** What else are the people instructed to do in verse 10?
- a.** What are the people told is an appropriate response?
 - b.** Why do you think they're told not to respond in a certain way?
- 10.** What do the Levites instruct the people about further?
- 11.** After hearing these final instructions and exhortations — What do the people do?
- a.** Why does it say they did this? What reason is given for why they responded this way?
- 12.** What specific application(s) can be made from this study of Chapter 8:1-12?
- a.** In what way, in this day and age, can this be useful in daily life for you and others?

For vs 13-18—

- 13.** What takes places on this 2nd day, as noted in verse 13?
- a.** Who is involved and for what purpose does it say they were gathered?
- 14.** What is the picture you see in verse 13?
- a.** In what way could this be similar for Christian believers nowadays?
- 15.** What specific thing from the Law is discovered?
- a.** What is put into action following this discovery?
- 16.** Do you know from what part of the Law they made this discovery?
- a.** If so — where is it in the Bible and what is being described here in verses 14-17?
- 17.** What is unusual or special about this celebration as noted in verse 17?
- a.** What is the result of this celebration that is similar to what is seen in Chapter 8:12?

Page 3 – Chapter 8

18. What does it say they continue doing in verse 18?

a. What does this speak to you about personally?

b. Is there any specific, personal application you can take from these verses in Chapter 8:13-18?

19. In verse 18 there is a reference to the 8th day of celebration — comparing this to what is found in John 7:37 — how might this be seen as a prophetic event?

a. What is Jesus' great invitation and promise in John 7:37-39, and what is this directly referring to?

b. Have you personally experienced this promise of Jesus?