

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What command of God had these people of Israel transgressed?
2. Why was God so concerned for the Israelites to be separated from the people of other lands? How does this idea apply to us today?
3. What is holiness?
4. How do men become holy?
5. In what ways could we become entangled with the world?

SUMMARY:

Ezra, a scribe and a priest, was the organizer and leader of the second group of Israelites to come back from Babylon to Jerusalem. On his arrival, he found the Israelites living in the land, intermarrying with and following all the evils of their pagan neighbors.

Ezra gathered with all those that feared God, prayed to God in sorrow, and confessed their great sin before Him. In order to be restored to holiness, they agreed to separate themselves from their strange wives, the people of the land and their evil ways.

The necessity of separation and holiness is just as important under the new covenant. In Hebrews 12:14 we read, *“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”*

NOTES:

[SoF:7] We believe that sinners may have salvation by repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.

[SoF:8] We believe that a saving faith results in regeneration by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, without which there is no salvation

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #7

August 16, 2020

Third Quarter

A REVIVAL OF HOLINESS

LESSON TEXT: *Ezra 9:1-15; 10:1-19*

LESSON SETTING: Ezra in Jerusalem, trying to restore Israel as a nation.

TIME: Approximately 457 B.C.

I. THE NEED OF HOLINESS. Ezra 9:1-4

- A. Warned of Evil Associations. (vs. 1) Exodus 34:12; Proverbs 4:14; Ephesians 5:11; 2 Corinthians 6:14
- B. Warned of Evil Examples. (vs. 1) Leviticus 18:3; Deuteronomy 18:9; 2 Peter 3:17

II. THE PRAYER FOR HOLINESS. [SoF:7] Ezra 9:5-15

- A. Sorrow for Sin. (vs. 5) Ezra 10:1; Psalm 34:18; 2 Corinthians 7:10
- B. Confession for Sin. (vs. 6, 10-15) Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9
- C. God's Grace (vs. 8-9) Isaiah 60:10; Psalm 44:3; Titus 3:5

III. THE COVENANT OF HOLINESS. [SoF:8] Ezra 10:1-19

- A. Put Off Sin. (vs. 3) Colossians 3:1-9
- B. Put on Godliness. (vs. 11) Colossians 3:10-17
- C. Please God. (vs. 11) Hebrews 11:5; 13:16
- D. Separation from Sin. (vs. 11) Psalm 119:115; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

GOLDEN TEXT: IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.
1 John 1:9

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Nehemiah 1:1-11; 2:1-20

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Acts 21:1-14; Hebrews 11:1-39

QUARTERLY THEME: God's People Restored

TOPIC: NEHEMIAH THE DETERMINED BUILDER

INTRODUCTION:

Nehemiah was a captive in Babylon, a cupbearer of the king. He must have enjoyed his work, as he was accustomed to show a cheery face. Then one day he asked about his people who had gone back to Jerusalem. He learned that they were in great affliction and reproach. The walls of the city were broken down and the gates had been destroyed. This brought much sadness to Nehemiah's heart. He loved his own city and his own people and his concern for them was very great. He wept, mourned, fasted, and prayed before God.

Do people today, weep, mourn, fast and pray for our doomed nation, for the many lost souls around them, or are they all only interested in themselves and their immediate families? What a lesson we can learn from Nehemiah. He not only wept, mourned, fasted and prayed he did something about it. He received permission from the king to leave and gather a group of people about him and go to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls and gates. He did not sit idly by. He must have submitted himself completely to the Lord and God gave him the ability, wisdom, and strength to carry out His will. He will do the same for us, if we but trust Him and are obedient.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Dedication to God requires separation from sin.

GOLDEN TEXT: *THE GOD OF HEAVEN, HE WILL PROSPER US; THEREFORE WE HIS SERVANTS WILL ARISE AND BUILD.*

Nehemiah 2:20

Nehemiah was facing an enormous task. God had put it in his heart to return from captivity and rebuild the walls and the temple at Jerusalem. He felt that as long as the city and the temple, which were a symbol of God's presence, lay in ruins, it was a reproach to God and His people. His prayer found favor with God, who had promised Moses that whenever the Israelites would repent of their backsliding He would again bless them. When Nehemiah reached Jerusalem, he found the ruin and devastation so complete that he had to dismount and proceed on foot. What a seemingly impossible assignment! The governor and his men ridiculed his purpose and laughed him to scorn. However, Nehemiah knew that he and his helpers were seeking to honor God. Therefore God would prosper them in their work.

Jesus also commissioned His disciples to go into the world and proclaim God's presence and salvation. *"For the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* Today it is still a reproach, when Jesus is seeking to build a church to present to His Father, if we don't become His servants and "arise and build". The task is great, the hindrances are many, but God will prosper us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF August 17 – 23

M. *Nehemiah's Burden. Nehemiah 1:1-5

T. *Nehemiah's Prayer. Nehemiah 1:6-11

W. *A Plan Evolved. Nehemiah 2:1-10

T. *A Plan Inaugurated. Nehemiah 2:11-20

F. Paul's Determined Preaching. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

S. Determination Born of Faith. Hebrew 11:32-40

S. Right Motive for Determination. James 5:7-11

Visit www.accfoundation.org for this and other Bible class lessons