

Arise & Build, #10
BRING OUT THE BOOK!

December 2–3, 2023 // Sermon Study Guide // Pastor Nate Miller

Text: Nehemiah 8 & 9

Truth Points: What truth was covered this weekend in the message?

1. Read Nehemiah 8:1. Why do you think the people choose to do this immediately following the completion of the wall? How is this a fitting celebration? What words or phrases show you the eagerness of the people to gather and hear the Word? What would an attitude like this look like for you?

2. Read Nehemiah 8:2–3. Who is gathered on this day? What is significant about the composition of the congregation? How long did the service last? What stands out about the attitude of the people? How does this demonstrate their value for Scripture? What would this kind of attitude look like in our day?

3. Read Nehemiah 8:4–8. How do the people respond to the Word? Why is this a fitting response? What do the leaders do to help the people grasp the Word? What principles do you see that apply to us today?

4. Read Nehemiah 8:9–12. What is the initial emotion the people experience? Why do the leaders instruct them to be joyful instead? How is this a model for church life?

5. Read Nehemiah 8:13–18. Who gathers for more Bible study? What do they read about? What do they do because of what they read?

6. Individually read through Nehemiah 9. Underline every reference to “the land.” Circle the attributes of God listed in the text. How many times does the text mention the land? Why does this matter? What stands out to you about the character of God as presented in chapter nine?

Reflection Points: How does God want me to think, feel, act, and speak because of this truth?

1. Do I have an eager expectation to hear from God when I come to a service or when I open the Word to read it? What needs to change in my attitude toward the Word? How can I cultivate an eager heart and attentive ears to hear the Word of God? What can I do to help me to be more attentive to God's Word both in my personal reading and the public gathering of the church?
2. When I hear the Word of God, am I ready to respond properly? Am I quick to obey the Word, or do I tend to analyze, evaluate, and minimize the clear teaching of the Word? Is the Word my authority or is my own mind/heart my authority? Is joyfulness my normal response to the Word?
3. Do I have a trust in God? Do I see the Word – for what it really is – the Word of God? When I read the promises of Scripture, am I skeptical or trusting of what God has said? How does God's faithfulness in the past (both in Scripture and in my life) help me to trust Him? In what promises of God have you already seen His faithfulness?

Action Points: What am I going to do this week because of this truth?

1. **Memorize:** John 5:39.
2. **The Value of the Word:** Look up the following verses, and list the attributes of Scripture that you notice: Isaiah 55:10–11, Psalm 119:160, 2 Timothy 3:16–17, James 1:22–25, 2 Peter 1:16–21
3. **Share the Story:** Share with a friend what you're learning about Jesus in 2023.