

Nehemiah, part 10:
“Rejoicing in Deliverance from Bondage”
Nehemiah 8:13-18

God’s work of revival continues.

1. God Calls His People to Rejoice **A discovery at Ezra’s Bible Study! vv. 13-15**

(1) The Gathering *“Now on the second day the heads of the fathers’ houses of all the people with the priests and Levites, were gathered to Ezra the scribe, in order to understand the words of the Law.”*

- **The heads of houses with the priests and Levites**

- **To hear Ezra read and expound the Word**

- Their attentiveness to the Word, an ongoing evidence of revival!

(2) The Discovery

-1- The Call to Celebrate the Feast of Booths *“And they found written in the Law... that the children of Israel should dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month.”*
Leviticus 23:33-43

- The Feast to be held the 15th – 22nd day of Tishri (Sept/Oct) – 8 days

- Celebrating the harvest of the summer fruit and the beginning of the olive harvest

- All who were native Israelites were directed to gather boughs and branches and to make booths or arbors to dwell in during the days of the feast.

-“You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths.”
(v. 42)

-“And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days.” (v. 40)

- They were to commemorate their deliverance from the bondage of Egypt

-“that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.” (v. 43)

-2- How had this been missed or neglected previously?

- **During the Babylonian captivity** – no real possibility; Israel under God’s chastening

- **Previous to captivity** – Spiritual dullness

- No zeal for such? – Loss of gospel zeal

- Inconvenient? – Too much trouble? Too many other things to attend to?

2. God Moves among His People – and They Rejoice!

(1) A Ready and Widespread Obedience! *“Then the people went out and brought them and made themselves booths... So the whole assembly of those who returned from the captivity made booths and sat under the booths”*

- **Such widespread participation unprecedented!**

“since the days of Joshua the son of Nun until that day the children of Israel had not done so.”

(2) Great Rejoicing!

“And there was very great gladness.”

(3) Continued great attentiveness to the Word!

“Also day by day, from the first day until the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God.”

Further Application: