

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier

**Nehemiah 8:13-18** - “The Restored Feast”

A. Why do people want to camp-out in tents?

B. God heard Nehemiah’s prayers & set His good hand of favor was upon Nehemiah & upon the people of Judah. Despite opposition from enemies, by the end of chapter 6, the broken-down walls were repaired & new gates were set up along with guards appointed upon the wall.

C. From the end of chapter 7 through chapter 10, we read of many examples of devout, sincere thanksgiving to God.

Let the restored feast guide your worship & celebration.	I. <u>THE ORIGINAL FEAST</u> II. <u>THE RESTORED FEAST</u> III. <u>YOUR WORSHIP &amp; CELEBRATION</u>
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I. THE ORIGINAL FEAST- → Turn to **Lev 23:33ff** to witness the original feast of booths / tabernacles.

A. This was an 8 day feast.

1. Day 1 began with a holy convocation or assembly.
2. Day 8 concluded the feast with a holy convocation or worship service.
3. **v37** says they were “**to present offerings by fire to the Lord—burnt offerings & grain offerings, sacrifices & drink offerings, each day’s matter on its own day.**” **Numbers 29** recorded exactly what sacrifices were to be offered on days 1-8 of the feast (vv12-40).

B. This feast was to give thanks to God for the gathering in of the crops of the land. → **v39**

C. **v40** explains how these booths were to be made. → **v40**.

**v24** said what they were to do with these various branches. “**You shall live in booths for 7 days.**”

D. Why would Jews, living in perfectly good homes, dwell in much smaller booths for 8 days? → **v43**

1. This feast was to remind them:
  - a. They were nomad people, wandering in the wilderness for 40 years after He brought them out of Egypt by a mighty hand.
  - b. God protected this chosen people & delivered them into the promised land.
  - c. They needed to be reminded of their small & seemingly insignificant beginnings.
2. The reminders of this feast was to keep them from forgetting God & His works of mercy & deliverance. → Turn to **Deut 6:10-15** to read a warning against forgetting God.

## II. THE RESTORED FEAST

- A. Look 1<sup>st</sup> at those responsible for the restoration of this holy feast after the captivity. → **vv13-14**
1. So this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. What happened on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of this assembly?
    - a. At the request of the people of God, the book of the law of Moses was read to all who could listen with understanding (**Neh 8:1-2**). This included exposition / explanation.
    - b. That reading lasted from sunrise to midday!
  2. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the assembly, the leaders of the people **“gathered to Ezra the scribe that they might gain insight into the words of the law.”** [We did not have enough on day 1!]
  3. When studying the Word of God, they became convicted that certain, commanded religious feast days were neglected. It is not that they picked the feast of booths because they favored it over the others. This feast happened to fall in the same month wherein they were already celebrating the completion of the rebuilding of the wall & gates of Jerusalem.
- B. Notice the instruction on the feast & how they began to carry it out . → **vv15-16**
1. They were scattered all over— living in makeshift, bushcraft booths as a reminder of God’s preserving guidance after they were delivered from slavery in Egypt.
  2. **V18** says **“they celebrated the feast 7 days, & on the 8th day there was a solemn assembly according to the ordinance.”** That included lots of burnt offerings according to the ordinance given in **Numbers 29**.

## III. YOUR WORSHIP & CELEBRATION

- A. Should we have feast of booths in the modern church? I do not believe so. Here is why:
1. If you must keep this Jewish feast celebration, it stands to reason that you must keep the other feast celebrations & holy days as well.
    - a. The Passover was fulfilled in Christ the only Lamb of God who can take away sin.
    - b. The Day of Atonement could be considered as the most important day to the Jews.
      - 1) Only on this day could the high priest enter the Holy of Holies in the temple to offer sacrifices to atone for the sins of all Israel.
      - 2) If you have saving faith in Jesus, He is your High Priest who has fulfilled this holy day as well. **Heb 10:11-12** says: **“Every priest stands daily ministering & offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered 1 sacrifice for sins for all time.”**
  2. The feast included lots of burnt offerings. That is impossible now without a tabernacle or temple. Even if there was, such sacrifices would be an insult to our Triune God.
  3. The feast of booths or tabernacles was fulfilled in Christ as well.
    - a. The Jewish people who dwelt in tents had God pitch His tent or tabernacle among them for many years prior the building of the 1<sup>st</sup> temple.
    - b. **Jn 1:14**: **“The Word became flesh, & dwelt among us, & we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace & truth.”** The word translated **“dwelt among”** is more literally **“tabernacled.”**
- B. What is the carry-over that we should take from the celebration of the feast of booths?
1. This whole godly celebration was because the saints of old loved God’s Word.
  2. Like the saints of Nehemiah’s day, we have cause for **“great rejoicing”** (**Neh 8:17**).
  3. **Mat 13:16-17**: **“But blessed are your eyes, because they see; & your ears, because they hear. For truly I say to you that many prophets & righteous men desired to see what you see, & did not see it, & to hear what you hear, & did not hear it.**

Review, further application, & conclusion: