

# When the People of God called for the Word

Nehemiah 8:1-12

## Introduction:

**Revival and Renewal** – is the work of the Holy Spirit in restoring the people of God to a more vital spiritual life, witness, and work; by prayer and the Word after repentance for their spiritual decline.

*“Loving unconditionally, meeting the community at the point of their needs through the truth of God’s Word.”*

### **I. When the People called for Spiritual Renewal v.1**

- a. The strength of a church will be in direct proportion to the number of people in that church who read, study, and put into practice God’s Word.
- b. They hungered for the Word

### **II. Who is the Word of God For v.2**

- a. It is for everyone
- b. The men, women, and children of Israel needed the Word of God in the hearts and minds

### **III. Something about the Location and Audience v.3**

- a. Usually the reading of the Law was confined to the Temple and only men could hear it.
- b. This location gave everyone – men, women, and children the opportunity to hear the Word
- c. The presence of children was extraordinary

### **IV. The Pulpit and the Teacher v.4**

- a. The first time in scripture pulpit / platform is mentioned
- b. Ezra was flanked by 13 Levites

**Please Turn Over**

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- V. Showing Reverence to God's Word v.5**
  - a. When Ezra opened the scroll immediately all the people stood up
  - b. They remained standing for the duration of the reading
- VI. Evidence of Renewal : Submission & Worship v.6**
  - a. They gave the Lord a praise befitting the reading
  - b. Their posture spoke volumes of humbling themselves before the Lord
- VII. Those Who Help to Make the Word Plain v.7**
  - a. Properly apply the Bible, you must properly interpret it
  - b. You must understand what the author meant for the people to whom he was writing in the context of that day
  - c. And how it applies to life now.
- VIII. Preach and Teach to the Level People Understand v.8**
  - a. Levites explained to the people what they had heard
  - b. Patient "reading and explaining" of scripture
- IX. Hearing and Accepting the Truth Changes Us vss.9-10**
  - a. 5 Responses for Spiritual Renewal / Revival
  - i. Repentance, Joy, Good Deeds, Obedience, Worship
- X. Remembering God's Grace and Mercy v.11**
  - a. The people were overwhelmed
  - b. But found security again because the Lord had become the center of their lives
- XI. The Revival and Joy of Living for God v.12**
  - a. When God's people understand the Word and live by it, there is no containing the holy joy