

☞ Note verse 17, and compare with 2 Chronicles 8:13 and Ezra 3:4. What is the difference between Nehemiah 8:17 and the other two passages?

### Items for Prayer

- Andy, Sharon, Jeff, Katie, and Trent Rupert- Calvary Baptist of Willard—Pray for Andy as he manages work and ministry time
- Sunday Services- Sinners will be convicted and trust Christ
- We would minister to one another for the unity, maturity, protection, and growth of our church (Eph 4:12-16)
- We would exalt the Lord Jesus Christ as we gather in public worship, Acts 2:42–47; 1 Cor 14:24–25; Col. 3:1

# Orwell Bible Church

## Daily Devotional

*Aug 14- Aug 20, 2017*

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***DISCIPLING ALL SO THAT ALL ARE DISCIPLING.  
CHRIST IS COMING!***

### ***Memory Verse for the week***

#### **Be faithful and obedient**

1 Timothy 6:14

Keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, which He will manifest in His own time. (note vv. 11-16)

### ***Learning Christian Truth***

#### **33. How does God justify sinners?**

When sinners by faith receive and rest on Christ alone for salvation, God credits Christ's righteousness to their account.

(Key term: imputation)

Rom 3:22, 24, 26; 5:18–19;  
2 Cor 5:21; Phil 3:9

### Pray for These Disciple-Making Opportunities

- Young People's Ministry Meetings, Aug 19
- Prayer Meeting Aug 23
- Ladies' Retreat at Peniel Bible Camp Sept 15-16
- Men's Retreat at Penile Bible Camp Sept 22-23
- Regular Sunday and Wednesday services
- Spread of the Word to English and Amish

## Purpose and Theme

*Ezra emphasizes four important points to the reader:*

- 1) God sovereignly brought His people back from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem
- 2) God was worshiped according to the covenant (temple, sacrifices, festivals, priests)
- 3) God's people had to obey the covenant and be holy (separated) as God was holy
- 4) God sovereignly accomplished His purposes, even when resisted by enemies

Understanding these four points of emphasis in the book of Ezra, we can state the purpose of the book thus: **Israel must be separate to and obediently worship their holy God who sovereignly returned them to the land.**

The theme of Ezra is Return of the Remnant

Key Passages: Ezra 6:21; 7:9–10

## Summary of Ezra

Ezra relates how God sovereignly moved both Cyrus and the exiled Jews to return to Jerusalem. The altar was rebuilt and the temple foundation laid. Israel's enemies successfully petitioned King Ahasuerus to stop the Jews' work. Prophets exhorted the Jews to resume building the temple, which they did. Sadly, Jews began intermarrying with pagan neighbors, so Ezra led the people into a covenant to put away their foreign wives.

## **Monday, Aug 14**

### Read— **Ezra 7**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ As you read verses 1–10, what was the real reason the exiles returned? What means were utilized? What application can you make from this?
- ☞ With this understanding, note Ezra's response in verses 27–28 and continue your application.
- ☞ What can you learn about Ezra from verses 6, 10, 11, and 21?

## Items for Prayer

- Mark and Bekah Perry- Chile—Praise the Lord for his grace in bringing us to Arkansas to serve with one of our supporting churches.
- Believers will grow more like Christ and less like the world through the Spirit's help and personal discipline
- Wisdom and provision for a permanent meeting house
- We would establish churches of like faith and practice at home and abroad, Matt 28:19–20; Acts 14:21–23

## **Saturday, Aug 19**

### Read— **Nehemiah 7**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ Why were Hanani and Hananiah put in charge?
- ☞ In light of the adversaries, newly built walls and ordering of the priesthood, why would establishing genealogies be important?
- ☞ Note verse 65—the point of this is that lacking written evidence, these individuals would be excluded until God told them otherwise via the Urim and Thummim.

## Items for Prayer

- Nathaniel, Katie, Emmaline, Gracyn, and Lauren Pringle- Cincinnati OH—Pray for God's provision of some mature (in years and experience) saints in our assembly
- God would bless His Word, answer our prayers, and use our lives and public services for the salvation of souls and the increase and strengthening of His church
- OBC men and women would grow in grace, fulfill their roles and responsibilities in their homes, and minister to our church body by word and example
- We would earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints, Phil 1:27; 1 Tim 6:12; Jude 3

## **Sunday, Aug 20**

### Read— **Nehemiah 8**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ What is emphasized in this chapter?
- ☞ Consider and meditate on verse 8. What application does this have for us in our day and age?
- ☞ Why were the people weeping (v. 9)?

## Nehemiah 4

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ How did God's people respond to resistance?
- ☞ Note Nehemiah's prayer in verses 4–5. This is called an *imprecatory* prayer, which means to curse. We might recoil at this (it's not exactly turning the other cheek), but the situation was different. To attack God's people was to attack God. This wasn't personal revenge, it is asking God to deal with His enemies.
- ☞ As you read verses 13–23, how did they respond to threats *and* do the work?

### Items for Prayer

- Daniel, Rosamma, Dany, Merlin, and David Kumar- India—Pray that believers will help and work with us for God's glory.
- Financial Stability
- Prayer and financial support of missionaries
- We would equip believers to do the work of the ministry for the maturity, protection, and growth of the body, Eph 4:11–16; Heb 5:12–14

Friday, Aug 18

### Read—

## Nehemiah 5

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ Compare verse 7 with Exodus 22:25; Leviticus 25:36; and Deuteronomy 23:19.
- ☞ Note the contrasting motivations for living in verses 9, 15.
- ☞ How did the fear of the Lord control Nehemiah's life?

## Nehemiah 6

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ How did Satan try to stop God's people from obeying Him?
- ☞ Nehemiah was not controlled by circumstances or emotions (vv. 8–9). What did control him?
- ☞ Note the enemies' reversal of emotions in verse 16. By God's grace and for His glory the faith and obedience of God's people brought God's results.

## Ezra 8

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ Read verses 15–20. Ezra depended on and gave praise to God and was diligent in using the means God provided.
- ☞ What was the purpose of fasting (vv. 21–23)?
- ☞ Note the contrasting “hands” in verse 31. What is meant by “hand” here?

### Items for Prayer

- Jeremy, Caroline, Isobel, and William Dion- Papua New Guinea—Pray for Caroline's health to improve and for her complete healing from recurring infections
- Persecuted Brothers and Sisters in Christ (Heb 13:3)
- God would provide the men we need for our spiritual growth
- We would glorify God as Christ's church, Rom 16:27; Eph 3:21; Phil 4:20; 1 Tim 1:17; 2 Tim 4:18; Heb 13:21; 1 Pet 4:11; 5:11; 2 Pet 3:18; Jude 24–25; Rev 1:6

Tuesday, Aug 15

### Read—

## Ezra 9

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ Summarize Ezra's prayer—what did Ezra recognize of God's actions? What did he confess of their sin? What did he feel about that?
- ☞ Why did Ezra humble himself and the people “tremble” (vv. 3–4; compare vv. 13–15)?

## Ezra 10

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ What was the people's response to Ezra's prayer (vv. 2–4)?
- ☞ As you read verses 7–8, compare that with 7:25–26. This is drastic action; did they have authority to do that?
- ☞ What was the biblical response to sin? What application can you make to your life?

Wednesday, Aug 16

Items for Prayer

- Charlie and Bo Frink- New Zealand—Pray that the Lord would raise up true believers and establish Christ-honoring churches both in NZ and around the world
- Peniel Bible Camp
- Those who have trusted Christ would be baptized and join the church
- We would evangelize the lost through personal witnessing and public preaching of the gospel, Acts 1:8; 1 Pet 3:15; Jude 22–23

Nehemiah: Purpose and Theme

God used Nehemiah to help Judah rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and reorder/reform their lives.

Purpose—This book was written to describe God’s restoration of His people and encourage obedience to the covenant.

The theme of Nehemiah is Rebuilding the Wall and Reforming the People

Outline of Nehemiah

☞ *God provides for and protects those who keep His covenant.*

**1. Rebuilding the Wall, 1–7**

- 1) Nehemiah’s grief and prayer, 1
- 2) Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem and inspects the walls, 2
- 3) Rebuilding the wall, 3
- 4) Opposition, 4
- 5) Nehemiah’s unselfishness, 5
- 6) Plots against Nehemiah, 6
- 7) List of returned exiles, 7

**2. Reforms Among the People, 8–13**

- 1) Reading of the Law, 8
- 2) Repentance from sin, 9
- 3) Renewal of the covenant, 10
- 4) Inhabitants of Jerusalem, 11
- 5) Dedication of the Wall, 12–13:3
- 6) Nehemiah’s reforms, 13:4–31

Read—

**Nehemiah 1**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ In light of the context of this prayer, what covenant does Nehemiah refer to in verse 5?
- ☞ Note the Scriptural basis of Nehemiah’s prayer.
- ☞ So, what did Nehemiah pray for?

**Nehemiah 2**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ A cupbearer was responsible for making sure the king’s food was not poisoned, and so the king literally trusted him with his life. In light of this, why would Nehemiah’s sad countenance be a bad thing?
- ☞ Why did the king give Nehemiah what he asked for (v. 8)? Where did Nehemiah’s trust lie? What application can you make from this?
- ☞ How did Nehemiah encourage the returned exiles to rebuild the wall (vv. 17–18)?

Items for Prayer

- Tim, Cristina, Andres, Ruth, and Patricia Goossen- Argentina—Pray for us as we prepare to go back to Argentina on the 22
- Wednesday Night Bible Study/Prayer Meeting
- Wisdom for church leadership
- We would edify believers through the systematic teaching of the Bible, public worship, ministry of believers, observance of the ordinances, and the administration of biblical discipline, Acts 2:42–47; 9:31; 1 Cor 14:26

Thursday, Aug 17

Read—

**Nehemiah 3**

- ➔ Briefly, what is the chapter about? Where does it “fit” in the context and purpose of this book?
- ☞ How did Baruch repair his section of the wall? How should you do your work (cf. Col 3:23; Titus 2:14)?