

ANATOMY OF A TRUE REVIVAL

Nehemiah 8:1-18

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Introduction: So far in our study of Nehemiah, our hero has been laser-focused on creating the structure where spiritual renewal could take place. This structure was important. God's covenant with Israel included his promise of land (Gen. 12:7; 17:7-8), and it included a promise to indwell his city: the city of Jerusalem (Ps. 48:1-3; 68:15-16; 125:2; 132:13-14). Hence, Nehemiah's first order of business was rebuilding the structure of the city since God brought them back into the land. Beginning in chapter 8, we see Nehemiah, along with other leaders like Ezra, take the next step. They move from structure to spirituality. They now work to foster spiritual renewal among the people. We know this is a genuine revival because of their natural passion for God's Word. Israel was rarely passionate about God's Word. Quite the contrary, they were often apathetic and dismissive of God's Word. Not in this chapter! In Nehemiah 8, they are passionate and submitted. As we study this, we will see principles for how genuine renewal takes place in all situations.

God's Initiative

Nehemiah 8:1

1st response: intellectual

Nehemiah 8:2-8

2nd response: emotional

Nehemiah 8:9-12

3rd response: volitional

Nehemiah 8:13-18

Idea

Takeaways