

Responding to the Words of God

James 1:22-26

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 1:22-26

²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

James 1:22-26

25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

2 Thessalonians 2:9–12

⁹ The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

2 Thessalonians 2:9–12

¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

“I defy the Pope and all his laws. If God should spare my life for many years, I will cause a boy that drives the plow to know more of the Scriptures than you do.”

William Tyndale, 1522

Nehemiah 8:1-18

¹And all the people gathered as one man
into the square
before the Water Gate.

And they told Ezra the scribe
to bring the Book of the Law of Moses
that the LORD had commanded Israel.

Nehemiah 8:1-18

² So Ezra the priest brought the Law
before the assembly,
both men and women
and all who could understand what they
heard,
on the first day of the seventh month.

Nehemiah 8:1-18

³ And he read from it facing the square
before the Water Gate
from early morning until midday,
in the presence of the men and the women
and those who could understand.
And the ears of all the people were
attentive to the Book of the Law.

Nehemiah 8:1-18

⁴ And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand, and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand.

Nehemiah 8:1-18

⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood.

⁶ And Ezra blessed the LORD , the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

Nehemiah 8:1-18

⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places.

Nehemiah 8:1-18

⁸ They read from the book,
from the Law of God, clearly,
and they gave the sense,
so that the people understood the reading.

Nehemiah 8:1-18

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law.

Nehemiah 8:1-18

¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Nehemiah 8:1-18

¹¹ So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.”

Nehemiah 8:1-18

¹² And all the people went their way to eat
and drink
and to send portions
and to make great rejoicing,
because they had understood the words
that were declared to them.

Nehemiah 8:1-18

¹³ On the second day
the heads of fathers' houses of all the
people,
with the priests and the Levites,
came together to Ezra the scribe
in order to study the words of the Law.

Nehemiah 8:1-18

¹⁴ And they found it written in the Law that the LORD had commanded by Moses that the people of Israel should dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month,

Nehemiah 8:1-18

¹⁵ and that they should proclaim it and publish it in all their towns and in Jerusalem, “Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written.”

Nehemiah 8:1-18

¹⁶ So the people went out and brought them and made booths for themselves, each on his roof, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim.

Nehemiah 8:1-18

¹⁷ And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in the booths, for from the days of Jeshua the son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing.

Nehemiah 8:1-18

¹⁸ And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God. They kept the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the rule.

Nehemiah 8:1

¹And all the people gathered as one man
into the square
before the Water Gate.

And they told Ezra the scribe
to bring the Book of the Law of Moses
that the LORD had commanded Israel.

RESPONDING TO THE WORDS OF GOD NEHEMIAH

I. Willing to Hear

Nehemiah 8:2

² So Ezra the priest brought the Law
before the assembly,
both men and women
and all who could understand what they
heard,
on the first day of the seventh month.

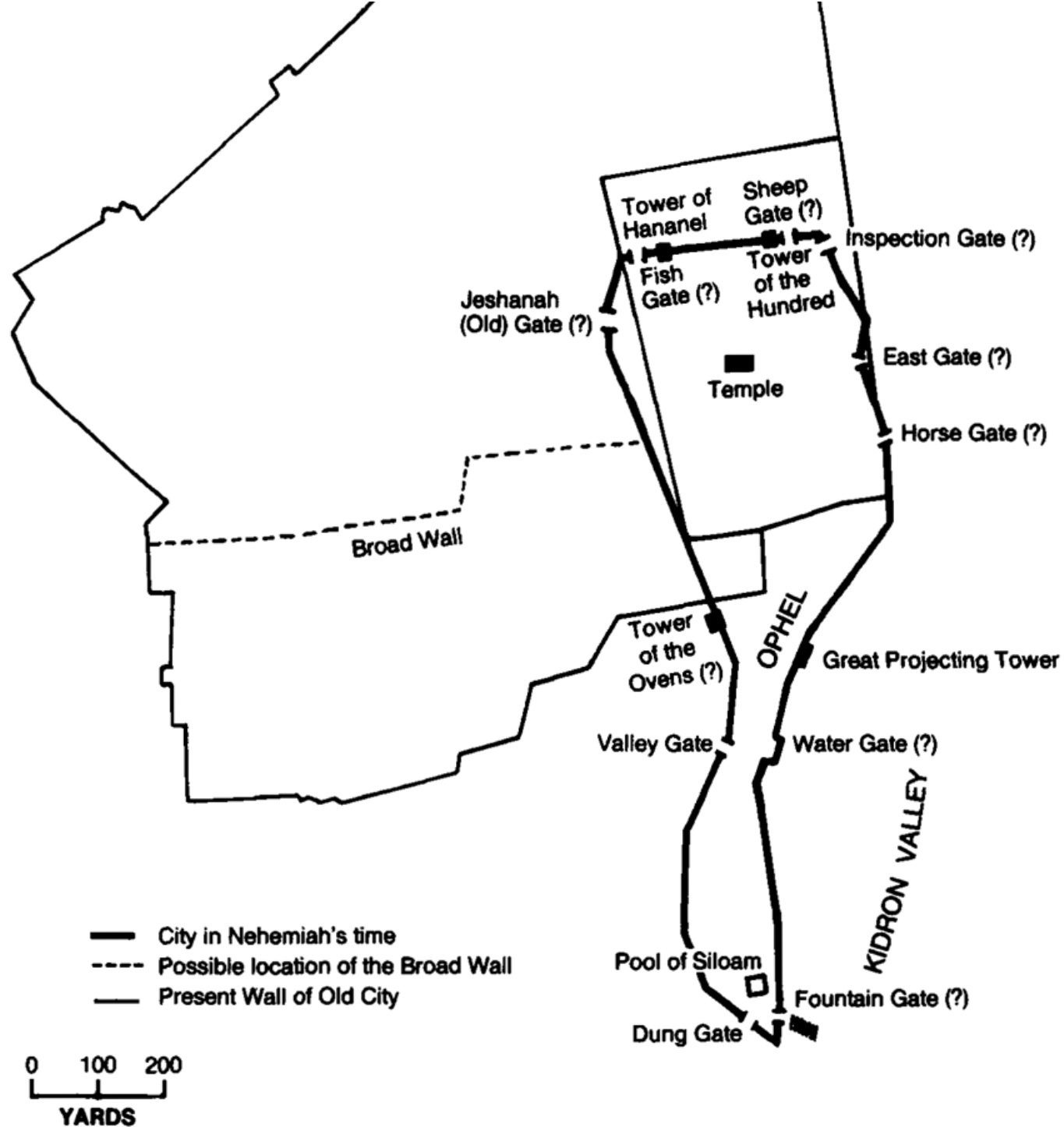
I. Willing to Hear

A. Intentionally sought to hear

1. They took time to hear

Nehemiah 8:3a

³ And he read from it facing the square
before the Water Gate
from early morning until midday,
in the presence of the men and the women
and those who could understand.



JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF NEHEMIAH

RESPONDING TO THE WORDS OF GOD NEHEMIAH

I. Willing to Hear

A. Intentionally sought to hear

1. They took time to hear

2. They were attentive to God's words

Nehemiah 8:3-4

³ And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

Nehemiah 8:3-4

⁴ And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand, and Pedaiah, Mishaël, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand.

Ezra 7:10

¹⁰ For Ezra had **set his heart** to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.

(NASB) ¹⁰ For Ezra had **firmly resolved** to study the Law of the Lord and to practice *it*, and to teach *His* statutes and ordinances in Israel.

(CSB) ¹⁰ Now Ezra had **determined in his heart** to study the law of the Lord, obey it, and teach its statutes and ordinances in Israel.

(NKJV) ¹⁰ For Ezra had **prepared his heart** to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do *it*, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.

RESPONDING TO THE WORDS OF GOD NEHEMIAH

I. Willing to Hear

A. Intentionally sought to hear

1. They took time to hear

2. They were attentive to God's words

B. Bowed their will to His words

Nehemiah 8:5

⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people,
for he was above all the people,
and as he opened it all the people stood.

Nehemiah 8:6

⁶ And Ezra blessed the LORD , the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

RESPONDING TO THE WORDS OF GOD NEHEMIAH

I. Willing to Hear

II. Ready Mind

Nehemiah 8:7-8

⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places.

Nehemiah 8:7-8

⁸ They read from the book,
from the Law of God, clearly,
and they gave the sense,
so that the people understood the reading.

RESPONDING TO THE WORDS OF GOD NEHEMIAH

I. Willing to Hear

II. Ready Mind

III. Tender Heart

Nehemiah 8:9-12

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law.

Nehemiah 8:9-12

¹⁰ Then he said to them,
“Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord.

And do not be grieved,
for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Nehemiah 8:9-12

¹¹ So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.” ¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

Psalm 119:111

111 Your testimonies are my heritage
forever,
for they are the joy of my heart.

Psalm 119:161-163

161 Princes persecute me without cause,
but my heart stands in awe of your words.

162 I rejoice at your word
like one who finds great spoil.

163 I hate and abhor falsehood,
but I love your law.

Jeremiah 15:16

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

Nehemiah 8:13-15

¹³ On the second day
the heads of fathers' houses of all the
people,
with the priests and the Levites,
came together to Ezra the scribe
in order to study the words of the Law.

Nehemiah 8:13-15

¹⁴ And they found it written in the Law that the LORD had commanded by Moses that the people of Israel should dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month,

Nehemiah 8:13-15

¹⁵ and that they should proclaim it and publish it in all their towns and in Jerusalem, “Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written.”

RESPONDING TO THE WORDS OF GOD NEHEMIAH

I. Willing to Hear

II. Ready Mind

III. Tender Heart

IV. Obedient Response

Nehemiah 8:16-18

¹⁶ So the people went out and brought them and made booths for themselves, each on his roof, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim.

Nehemiah 8:16-18

¹⁷ And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in the booths, for from the days of Jeshua the son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing.

Nehemiah 8:16-18

¹⁸ And day by day,
from the first day to the last day,
he read from the Book of the Law of God.
They kept the feast seven days,
and on the eighth day there was a solemn
assembly,
according to the rule.