"An Attitude of Gratitude" (Nehemiah 8)
Art Dykstra  OT2344

Chapter 8 THE NUMBER OF NEW BEGINNINGS.

V73. 7th month- Tisri (our Sept. Oct).  Civil new year

V. 1 - Through Ezra and Nehemiah s spiritual leadership/example a movement of God begins.
- God s people are united in purpose and they begin to initiate.
- The water gate is a picture of the word of God and its effect in our life.
- Revival comes from going from the dung gate (the garbage in our life), into the fountain gate and the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and then to the Water Gate:

V.2 - 1 Tisri- Rosh Hashanah -- Known as the Day of Judgment or Remembrance

V.3 - 6 hours! Thirsty people want to drink! They listened attentively

V. 4-6 our response (challenge- maybe some of us need to respond like that)- intimate!

V. 7-8 Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Cornerstones at Calvary:

1. The whole counsel of God (also 2 Pet 1:3-).

2. With a goal of understanding that leads to application, application, application (what does this mean for me today? Reading relationally)

3. Community- Calvary is a big place! Get involved. (Eccl 4- Satan s strategy- get independent- out of family, community)

V.9 Appropriate response to hearing the word. Pierces the heart

V. 10-11 Appropriate response to good news and repentance. Rejoicing.

V. 12 Rejoicing follows repentance and cleansing. An outward expression follows rejoicing.

Isaiah 44- Parallels what happens to God s people if they don t pursue God.
V. 14-15; 19-20  We pursue a lie. Romans 1:25 (Exchange the truth for a lie, worshiped and served created things rather than the creator). Israel’s history: they were supposed to purge the sin in the land. Yet didn’t. Slowly infected.

How does personal revival occur?
1. V. 21 - **Remember** who God is and what he’s done! Reminders: stone pillars after crossing the Jordan; Communion.
   a. Remember: what God has done for you through Jesus
   b. Phil 3 You can look to what Jesus did in the past, to live in the present and press on to the future.
2. V. 22a - **Repent**
3. V. 22b - **Return** because of **Redemption** = You are **RIGHTeous**.
4. V. 23 - **Response**: Rejoice

Back to Neh 8:13
V. 13-14 Continued thirst for the word. We learn how to live our lives.
V. 15-18- Response is action! When God reveals application in your life, you better follow through. 10th of Tisri is the Day of Atonement and the 15th is the Feast of Booths. Get prepared!

Brief Overview of Biblical Feasts

Colossians 2:16-17 - Feasts were a shadow of things to come to teach us about the Messiah. 1 Cor. 10: 6,11 Events in the past were prophetic types by foreshadowing events in God’s plan of redemption.

Spring Festivals
First 4 feasts (Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits and Pentecost) primarily teach about the significant events in the first coming of the Messiah. The last 3 feasts (Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles) point to the second coming. Each of these feasts has a historical commemorative role, each also has a prophetic role.

Fall festivals
10 Tisri- Yom Kippur- day of atonement- This was also the day that two goats were selected, one for an offering and one as the scapegoat. Prophetically- Jesus was our scapegoat. (Reminds us of the need to be restored to Him through his atonement)

15 Tisri- 3rd -9th of October, Sukkot- Booths- Jews were commanded and continue to observe this time by building and dwelling in temporary shelters. Season of our Rejoicing.

Jesus and Sukkot:

During Sukkot, two important ceremonies took place. The Hebrew people carried torches around the temple, illuminating bright candelabrum along the walls of the temple to demonstrate that the Messiah would be a light to the Gentiles. Also, the priest would draw water from the pool of Siloam and carry it to the temple where it was poured into a silver basin beside the altar. The priest would call upon the Lord to provide heavenly water in the form of rain for their supply.
In the New Testament, Jesus attended the Feast of Tabernacles and spoke these amazing words on the last and greatest day of the Feast: "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." (John 7:37-38 NIV) The next morning, while the torches were still burning Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12 NIV). When Jesus broke bread in the upper room, it was at the beginning of the feast of unleavened bread, when he was crucified, it was on Passover, when he rose from the dead, it was the feast of first fruits. 50 days after Passover, on the feast of Shavuot or the day of Pentecost, which signaled the beginning of the harvest, was when the Holy Spirit was poured out and the harvest of the gentile world began.

An Attitude of Gratitude

Healing of 10 lepers. Only one returned to give thanks, a Samaritan. His gratitude indicated a humble dependence on God.

Israel was told through commands and Psalms to repeat their blessings. But what happens? We take things for granted. Poet Ralph Waldo Emerson said, if the stars came out only once a year, everyone would stay up all night to watch. We take things for granted very quickly until we lose them.

- 1 Thess 5:18 give thanks in all circumstances. Matt 5:45 Every good and perfect gift comes from him. When the ark was brought to Jerusalem- 1 Chron 16 41 With them were Heman and Jeduthun and the rest of those chosen and designated by name to give thanks to the LORD. Praise, worship and thanks all go together.

Two Thanksgiving articles: Cultivate a purposeful heart of thanksgiving- meditate on your blessings

   Robin; Ministry; Creation-

   Health

   1/3 of world can t get medicine they need; every 8 seconds a child dies from preventable waterborne disease; 1.5/100 Americans are deaf; a child goes blind every minute, 75% is treatable. Much from vitamin A deficiency (gave thanks for Vitamin A). 90% from the developing world; Clean water- 3.5 miles per trip for unclean water.

   Financial- We are 90-95% of the wealthiest in the world. 1.6 billion live without electricity; Flush toilets; Haitian mud cookies- Clay, salt, shortening, your toilet flushes more water than an Africa woman has for a whole day.

A 12 year old boy named David was born without an immune system. He had spent his entire life in a plastic bubble in order to prevent exposure to germs and viruses that could kill him. When asked what he’d like to do if and when released from his protective bubble, he replied, "I want to walk barefoot on grass, and touch my mother’s hand."

Conclusion Challenge- Attitude of gratitude. Reflect on a few things. Purposefully. Who God is. His character. His blessings. What that means to you!

Deut. 8:1-3; Land flowing with great things! Vv. 10-20

Response.