

Before the THRONE

The Devotional

Volume 1

Books of the Law & History

Nehemiah 8:1-12

“And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation... And he read it... from the morning until midday... and... all the people were attentive unto the book of the law... Also... and the Levites caused the people to understand the law... So they did read in the book the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading... and all the people wept when they heard the words of the law... And *Nehemiah* said, “This day is holy unto our Lord: neither be sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” ...and the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them...” Nehemiah 8:1-12

As the Word of God is opened to hearts that are ready to receive it, there is often an initial weeping and brokenness as the realization of sin breaks into the heart. But not long thereafter the weeping turns to great joy at the relief from the burden and weight of sin. To know that you are born again, that your sin is forgiven and that you are now a child of God is an wonderful thing!

“Joy unspeakable and full of glory!” (1 Peter 1:8)

Joy is in itself a wonderful evidence of the Lord’s abiding presence within both His people and within the individual believer. “In Thy presence is fullness of joy.” (Psalm 16:11). Joy, along with signs and wonders, are a beacon lighting paths darkened by sin and culture. “And there was great joy in the city.” (Acts 8:8).

Joy is also an evidence of our having obeyed the Holy Spirit’s prompting and the word of God – thus it is a reflection of the Lord’s joy at our obedience!

“The joy of the Lord is our strength!” (Nehemiah 8:10)