

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

09-17-2023 // WEEK 37 NOTES

Nehemiah 10 - 1 Chronicles 8

This week, you completed the book of Nehemiah and have begun 1 Chronicles. Here is an overview of what you've read this past week:

Nehemiah 10-13:

The wall is completed. Nehemiah, with Ezra the priest, develops right Temple worship. Note the emphasis on the singers and worship leaders. Worship of God's people is important to him. He restored the people's tithes (10%) to the work of the Temple – something commanded by God before the people ever entered the Promised Land.

He also continued to develop the strength of the family, promoting marriage and the care for children. This is very interesting: each family took responsibility for building the wall in front of their houses! That way, they'd take special interest to make it strong for the protection of their families.

Note as well how often Nehemiah sought the Lord in prayer. It was like breathing for him.

Finally, note how the opposition continued toward him. There is always opposition when God is doing a great work. But he persisted. And also confronted the source of much of the antagonism, Tobiah, an unbeliever, who had somehow been given a room in the Temple! And probably stole the tithes as well for himself. Nehemiah kicked him out of the Temple area with great violence. Oh that all of us would hate sin and love righteousness like Nehemiah did! Once again, this is a great book on leadership. Its principles apply today.

1 Chronicles 1-8:

The first part of this book has to do with genealogies of the tribes. It's partly because, as the people returned from the Exile in Babylon, the land was once again divided but there had to be a legacy from the returned people to inherit the land again.

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Each tribe, including the Levites (who had no land but lived in cities sprinkled throughout the land as to give a holy witness to God everywhere), had a section of the Promised Land given to them.

Note that the entire genealogy begins with Adam and traces him to Abraham. Biblically, you cannot argue that the creation narrative (**Genesis 1-2**) is a myth. Adam is a real person when he's referenced throughout the Bible.

Finally, spend some time studying Jabez in **1 Chronicles 4:10**. It's a tiny reference, but God must have wanted us to note him. He was a man after God's heart, who refused to be a victim, who asked God for blessings and the expanse of his influence. There was a short little book entitled *The Prayer of Jabez* a couple of decades ago. It was a huge success and based on this verse. Look at it! It should encourage you as you grow in your faith and continue to pray.

You are continuing your journey through **1 Chronicles**. Yes, much of it is a repeating of **2 Samuel** and **1 and 2 Kings**. The interesting insight is that **Chronicles** is probably written after the Exile and the return of the Jews to the homeland. Therefore, it omits many of the sins of King David especially and the people generally. It's as if the Chronicler wanted Israel to have this history but remember their sins no more. A fresh start. So, for example, you don't have David's sins with Bathsheba mentioned. King David wanted to be seen as the great king through whom the covenant to Israel would continue. In fact, those are the two great themes of **1 Chronicles** especially:

- 1) King David and the covenant continuing through his lineage, and
- 2) The building of the Temple by David and Solomon as the place of worship for God's people.

Keep reading. I hope it's meaningful to you. Just remember: by the end of January, 2024, you will have read through the entire Bible – something every follower of Jesus should do.

David