

SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

# SUNDAY SERMON

# "RETURN"

**Nehemiah 8:1-3; 5-12**

30 June 2024



# RETURN

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-12



# COME Together

Take 1-minute each and share ...

- One thing you are **thankful** for
- One thing you **need prayer** for



# **Nehemiah**

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Story Recap





**QUESTIONS  
FROM OUR  
NEHEMIAH  
SERMONS**

- What breaks your heart?
- What are you doing about it?
- What is needed in the process and work of rebuilding?
- What is the purpose of personal rebuilding?
- Where can we rebuild?

# **Nehemiah**

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BWJ readings 7:4-10:31



## **“PROJEK SELESAI?”**

6:15 So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. <sup>16</sup> And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

7:4 The city was wide and large, but the people within it were few, and no houses had been rebuilt.

**“Eh-eh, belum lagi!”**



**REBUILDING GOD'S PEOPLE**

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**REBUILDING GOD'S CITY**



# A SUMMARY OF NEHEMIAH 7:4-10:31

- Repopulating Jerusalem? (7:4, 73)
- Recount (7:5-66)
- Resources (7:67-72)
- Reading & Response (8:1-12)
- Remembrance – the Feast of Booths (8:13-18)
- Repentance & Confession (9:1-37)
- Renewal of Covenant (9:38-10:31)



## Nehemiah 8:1-3

<sup>1</sup>And 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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 8:5-8

<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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 worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

<sup>7</sup> Also ... the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places.

<sup>8</sup> They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the meaning, so that the people understood the reading.



## Nehemiah 8:9-12

<sup>9</sup> 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.**

<sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, “Go on 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.**” <sup>11</sup> So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.”

<sup>12</sup> **And all the people went on 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.**



**WALK  
WORSHIP  
WORD**

**RETURN** 

**REBUILDING GOD'S PEOPLE**





**WORD**

**RETURN** 

- **Community & Priority:** Gathering “as one man” (8:1), “men and women and all who could understand” (8:2-3)
- **Posture & Attitude:** “Attentive ears” (8:3), a reverence for God’s Word (8:4-6, 9)
- **Understanding & Support:** People understood, helped by the Levites who read clearly and gave the sense (8:7-8, 12)
- **Response:** Conviction & Weeping > Joy & Celebration (8:9-12)





**WORSHIP  
WORD**

**RETURN** ↗

- **Worshipping God together:**  
As a community (8:1, 9:1, 3-5)
- **Feasts & Celebrations:**  
Remembering God's faithfulness,  
provision and power (8:13-18)
- **Confession & Repentance:**  
Responding to God's holiness,  
identifying with the sins of their  
ancestors (9:2, 6-37)





**WALK  
WORSHIP  
WORD**

**RETURN** ↗

- **Renewal of Covenant:**  
Return to relationship and identity as God's people (9:38, 10:1-29)
- **A Commitment to Obedience:**  
In families (10:30), in business dealings (10:31), in giving (10:32-39)
- **A Commitment to Social Justice:**  
Caring for the poor (5:1-13)



**WALK  
WORSHIP  
WORD**

**RETURN** 

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What is **my** response?  
What is **our** response?



WALK  
WORSHIP  
WORD



RETURN



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What is **my** response?  
What is **our** response?



# RESPOND

## Together

Take 1-minute each and share ...

- One **step** you will take in response
- One **person** you can share this with

