

# The First Watergate

TEXT: Neh. 8 - 9:4

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. DO WE HAVE THE WRONG ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD AND HIS WILL?
  - 1. General lack of interest. Little study and discussion.
  - 2. Sometimes we take the Bible too lightly. Are not impressed as we should be.
  - 3. Hesitation to obey.
  - 4. Behavior in services manifests the wrong attitude sometimes.
- B. LOOK AT TEXT FOR GOOD ATTITUDE.
- C. BACKGROUND, RETURN FROM BABYLON, LAW NEW TO THEM.

### I. THE PEOPLE TOOK THE INITIATIVE ( vs. 1 ).

- A. THE VALUE OF THE WORLD( 2 Tim. 3:16-17 ).
- B. A REVELATION OF GOD'S MIND & PLAN( 1 Cor. 1:10-13, 16 ).
- C. PARABLES SET FORTH VALUE( Matt. 13:44; 45 ).

### II. DIDN'T MIND THE LENGTH - SPENT TIME WITH IT ( vs. 3 ).

- A. DAVID'S ATTITUDE( Psa. 119:97; 1:1-3 ).
- B. TOLD TO GROW( 2 Pet. 3:18 ). HOW?( 1 Pet. 2:1-2 ).
- C. NOT CURSORY READING - INTERESTED IN THE MESSAGE( vs. 3 ).
  - 1. Involves searching( John 5:39; Acts 17:11 ).
  - 2. Long hours( 2 Tim. 2:15 ).

### III. REVERENCE - THIS IS GOD'S LAW( vs. 5-6 ).

- A. THE PEOPLE STOOD...
  - 1. They understood the nature of God( Heb. 12:28 ).
  - 2. They understood the source of the Law( 2 Thess. 2:13 ).
- B. WHAT DO WE DO SOMETIMES?
  - 1. Take a nap. 2. Fidget. 3. Fool with kids. 4. Cut up and distract.
  - 5. Kibitz 6. Talk with a neighbor. 7. Bear it.
- C. ENCOURAGING REACTION( vs. 6 ).
- D. THEY STOOD THE WHOLE TIME, LISTENING BEFORE COMFORT( vs. 7 ).

### IV. EXPRESSED SORROW AT THEIR FAILURES ( vs. 9 ).

- A. THEY KNEW THE TRAGEDY OF SIN.
- B. SO DID DAVID( Psa. 51:1-4; 8 ).
- C. SO SHOULD WE( 2 Cor. 7:10 ).

### V. FRUIT OF HEARING - JOY( vs. 12 ).

- A. BACK WITH GOD.
- B. GOSPEL RECONCILES US( 2 Cor. 5:18-21 ).
- C. FUNDAMENTAL ATTITUDE( Phil. 4:4 ).

### VI. CONTINUED INTEREST - STEDFAST ( vs. 13 ).

- A. ADMONITIONS OF PAUL( 2 Tim. 1:13-14 ).
- B. NECESSARY TO KEEP LIFE PURE & BEAR FRUIT( Phil. 1:9-11 ).
- C. WE MUST ABIDE IN IT( 1 John 2:24 ).

### VII. THEY RESPONDED BY OBEYING( vs. 16-17 ).

- A. WE MUST OBEY( Matt. 7:21; James 1:22 ).
- B. NOT TO OBEY BRINGS WRATH( 2 Thess. 1:7-9 ).