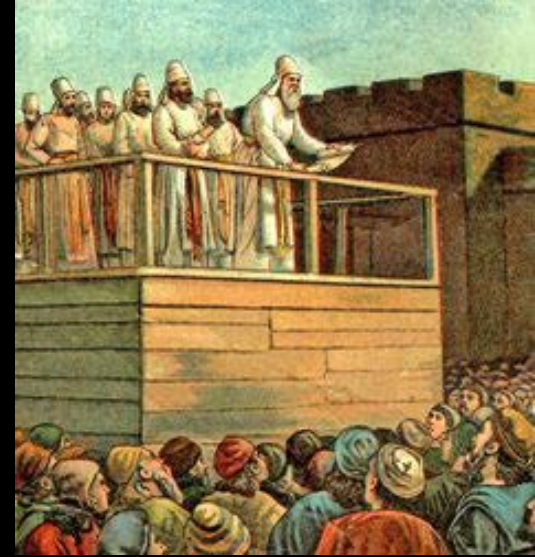


# THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH



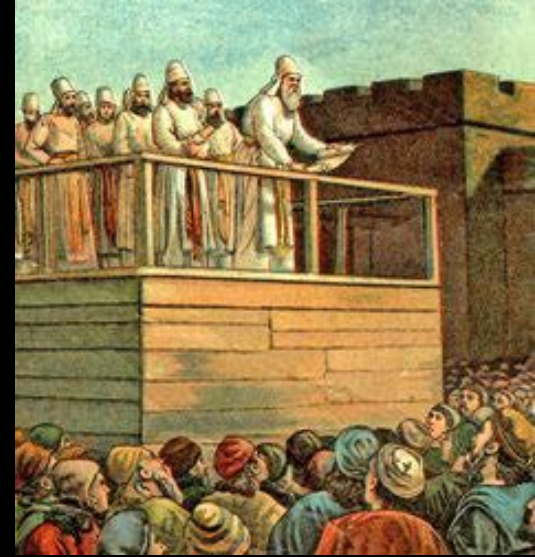
**NEHEMIAH 8:8-12**

I. The joy of the people  
came from understanding  
God's word  
**(Nehemiah 8:8).**



- What had those people been doing all morning **(v.5-6)**?
- How does anxiety turn to joy whenever we understand our responsibilities?

**II. There is a tendency toward sadness when we hear God's word (v.9).**



- **When we realize how far we have fallen from God's will, why are we sad?**
- **How will a better understanding of God's love and grace help us have joy?**

### III. When we have heard God's word, He wants us to display joy (v.10).

- How should you feel if you have been given insight into life by the maker of all things?
- How will a better understanding of God's word help us develop a lasting joy?



## IV. The people understood God's word when they lived in joy (v.11-12).



- What is wrong with our understanding when we do not live in joy?
- How does the practice of joy help us more completely understand God's will?

**V. We are to pray for the joyous life that comes from understanding God's word (Colossians 1:9-12).**



- How will our prayers for understanding God's will, help us be strengthened by joy?
- How urgently are we praying for insight to lead us to joyous strength?

**Call to Action:** To pray,  
live and share in such a  
way that we display His  
joy.



- How will you allow God's word to help you have His joy?
- What can you do to turn your sorrow into joy?
- How will His joy strengthen you to service?
- What can you do this week to let God's word give you His joy?

**-How can we help?**

