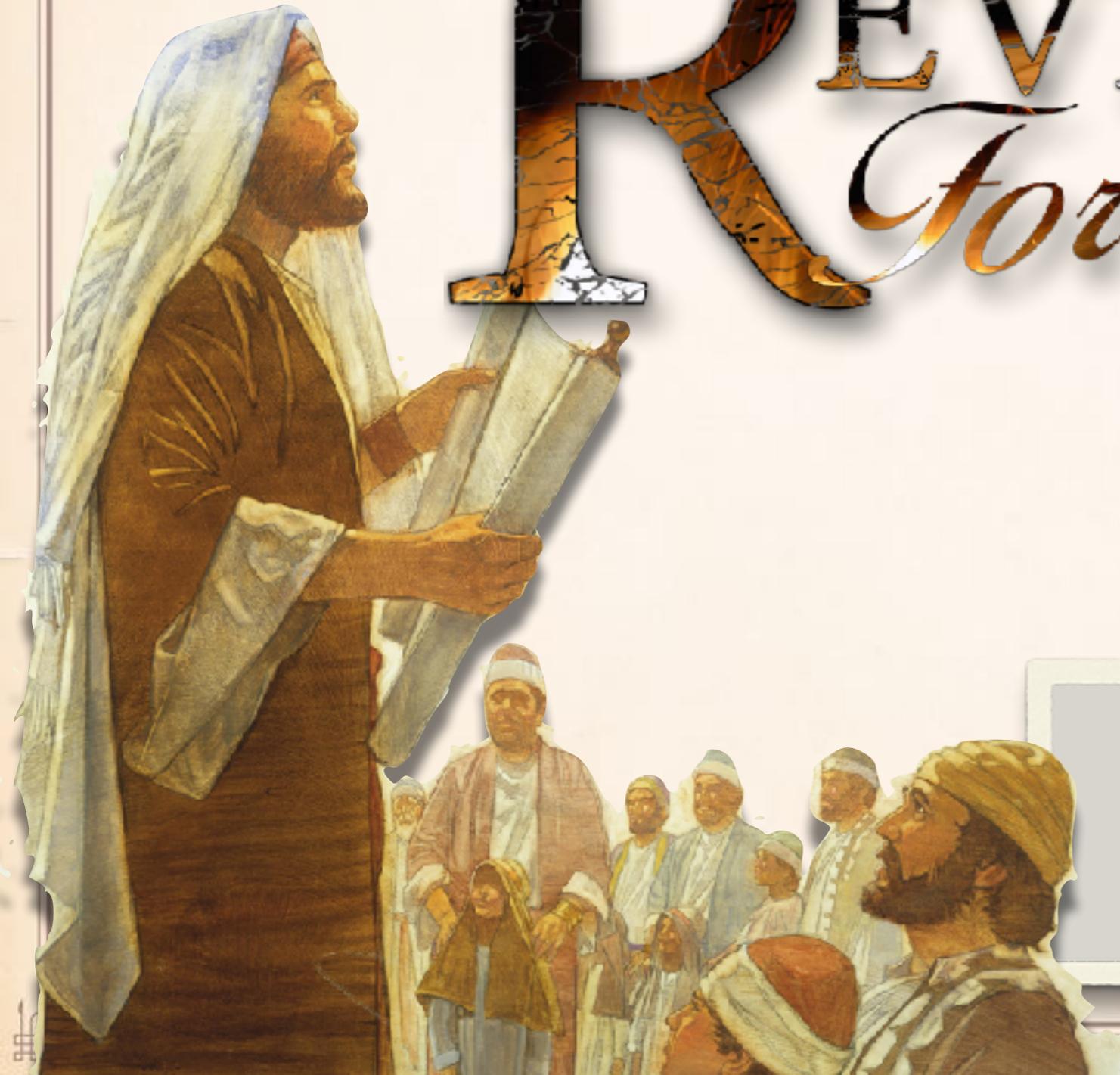


DEMONSTRATING

REVERENCE
For GOD



NEHEMIAH 8:1-12;
HEBREWS 12:25-29

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD



- ❖ Zerubbabel leads the first wave back to Jerusalem to reestablish the priesthood and sacrificial system — Ez 3:1-8 (538 BC)
- ❖ The temple is rebuilt under the leadership of Zerubbabel — Ez 3:8-6:18 (537-516 BC)
- ❖ Ezra returns to teach and lead the people in worship & service according to the Law — Ez 7:1-10 (457,458 BC)

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD



- ❖ Nehemiah leads another group back to Jerusalem and rebuilds the wall in 52 days – Neh. 1:1-7:15 (25th of Elul - Sept 20, 444 BC)
- ❖ The children of Israel were in their cities —(Neh 7:73),
- ❖ The time had come for the Law of God to be read before the people so that their worship and lives may be restored to God's prescribed order, (Nehemiah 8:1-18)

NEHEMIAH 8:1-12 (NKJV)

¹ Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that *was* in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded Israel. ² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who *could* hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. ³ Then he read from it in the open square that *was* in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* to the Book of the Law.

NEHEMIAH 8:1-12 (NKJV)

⁴ So Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of wood which they had made for the purpose; and beside him, at his right hand, stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Urijah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah; and at his left hand Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, *and* Meshullam. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was *standing* above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with *their* faces to the ground.

NEHEMIAH 8:1-12 (NKJV)

⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people *stood* in their place. ⁸ So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading. ⁹ And Nehemiah, who *was* the governor, 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 nor weep.” For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.

NEHEMIAH 8:1-12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for *this* day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” ¹¹ So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, “Be still, for the day *is* holy; do not be grieved.” ¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

❖ The 7th month (*Tishri* - late Sept. – Oct.) - the month of festivals:

- Feast of Trumpets- (*Lev. 23:24; Num. 29:1*),
- The 10th day was the day of atonement, (*Lev. 16: 23:26-32*),
- The 15th-21st was the Feast of Tabernacles, (*Lev. 23:33-36*).



DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

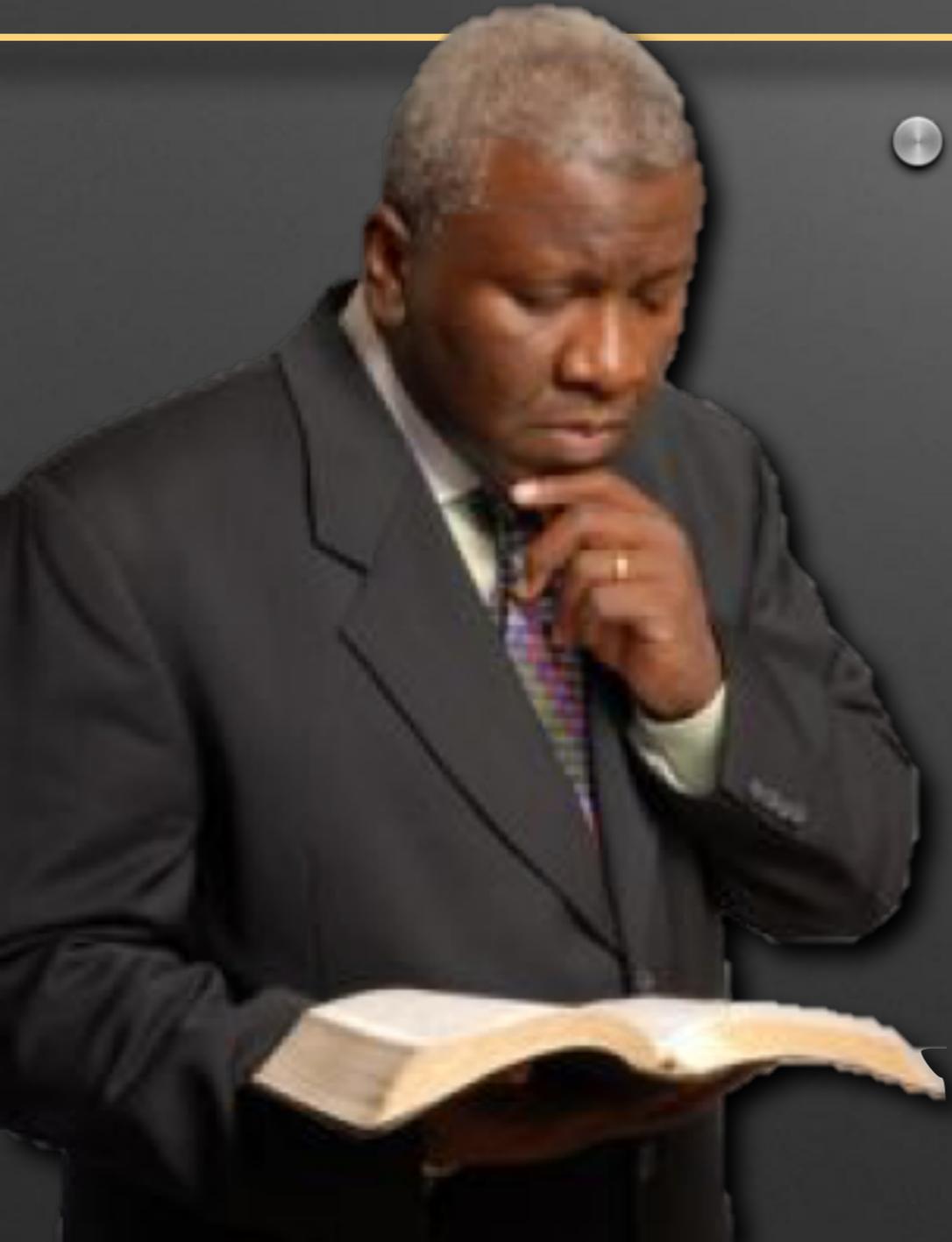
Wanted To Hear God's Word - 8:1



- Assembled for a united purpose —
“As one man ... bring the book of the Law of Moses”
- Listened patiently & attentively — (3)
- Prepared a pulpit *“for that purpose”* — (4)
- Stood when book was opened — (5)
- Were thankful for God's Law — (6)
- Stood in their place — (7)
- Sought to understand / penitent / obedient / joyful — (8-12)
- Continued to assemble & hear — (13-18)

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

What Is Our Attitude Toward God's Word?



- Can Be Seen In OUR **DESIRE** To Assemble For Study & Worship – 8:1
- We assemble to worship God & hear His word – Acts 2:42-46; 4:23-31; 20:7,8; 1 Cor. 11:33; 14:26
- Means of edification & encouragement - not to be forsaken – Eph 4:11-16; Heb. 10:24,25
- We should be like David - (Ps 122:1; 119:97-104)

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

What Is Our Attitude Toward God's Word?

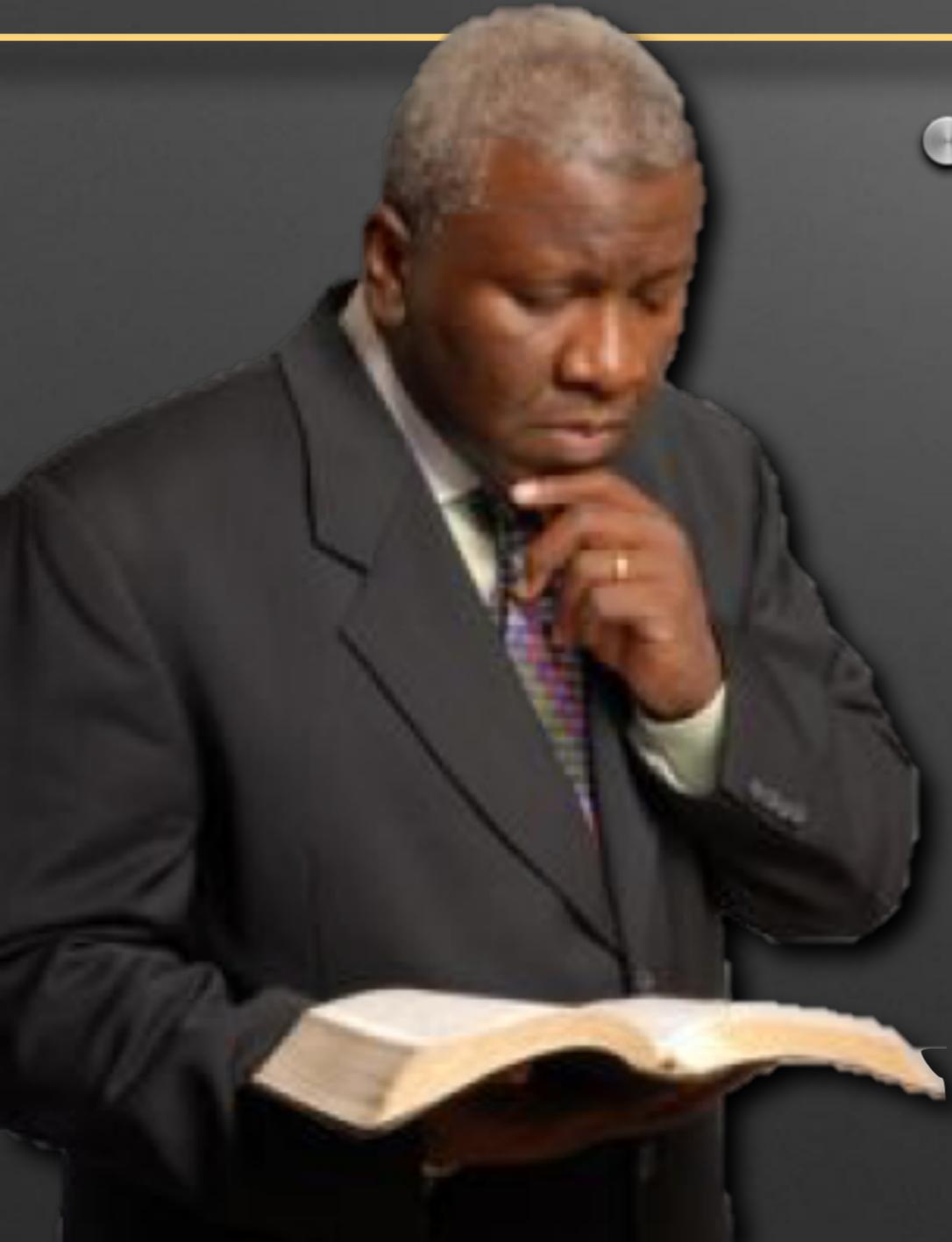


Malachi 1:13 (NKJV)

¹³ You also say, ‘**Oh, what a weariness!**’ And you sneer at it,” Says the Lord of hosts. “And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?” Says the Lord.

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

What Is Our Attitude Toward God's Word?



- Can Be Seen In Our Willingness To Give God's Word Our Time & Attention— 8:1,3,7
- Where are our priorities & values? — (Matt. 6:21; 13:44,45; Rom 8:6).
- Necessary to build faith – Ro 10:17
- Necessary to grow – 1 Pet 2:2
- Necessary to teach – Heb 5:12,13
- Necessary for discernment – Heb 5:14

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

What Is Our Attitude Toward God's Word?



- Can Be Seen In Our Willingness To Give God's Word Our Time & Attention— 8:1,3,7
- **Bible classes** – (Attendance, preparation, attentiveness)
- **Preaching** – (Listening, following in Bible, taking notes)
- **Personal Bible reading and study** – (Daily, habitual meditation, cross references)

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

What Is Our Attitude Toward God's Word?



Amos 8:5 (NKJV)

5 Saying: "When will the New Moon be past, That we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, That we may trade wheat? Making the ephah small and the shekel large, Falsifying the scales by deceit,

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

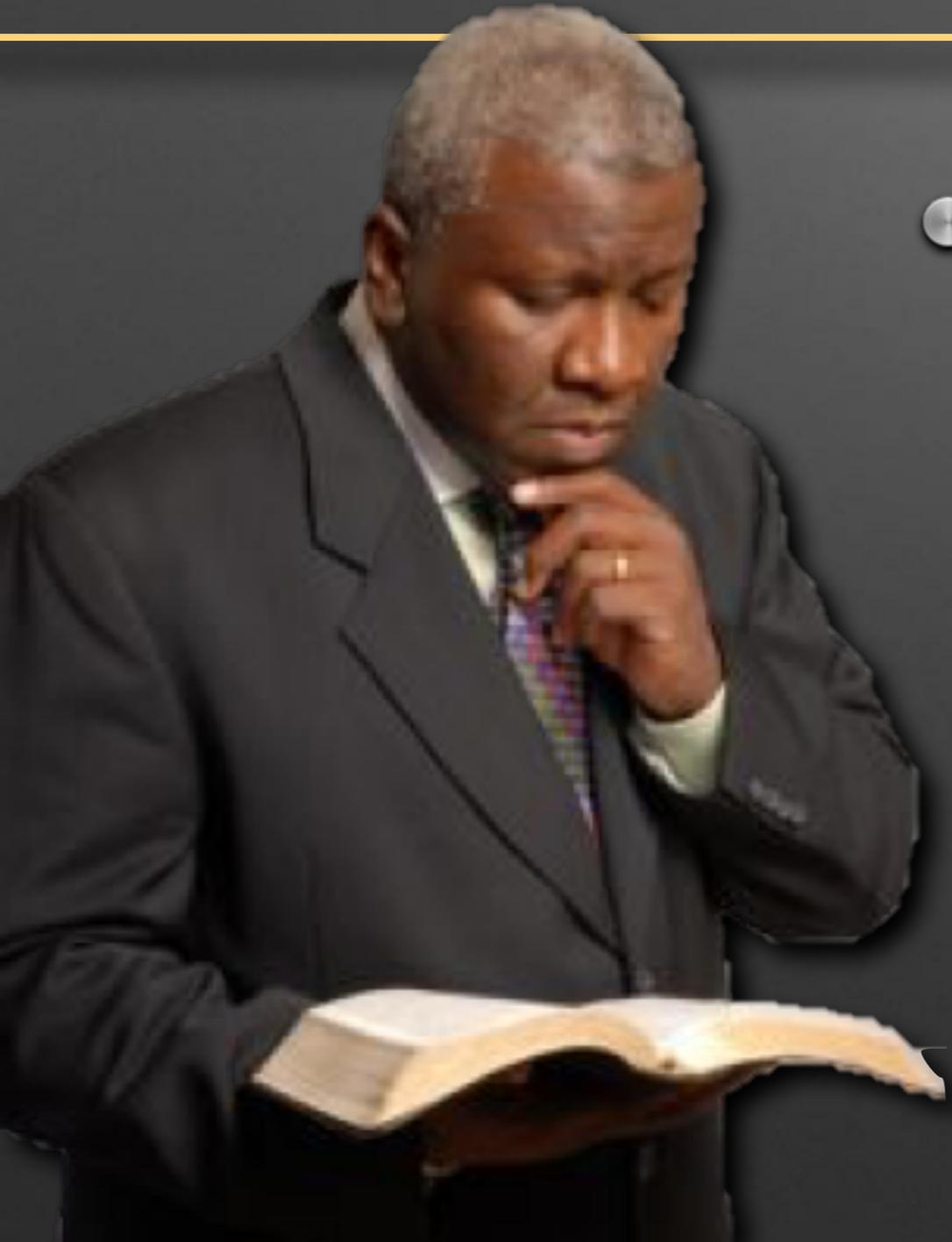
What Is Our Attitude Toward God's Word?



- **Can Be Seen In Our Desire To Understand It— 8:8-12**
- They read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God - (8) —
- They gave the sense, (8) — (explained the meaning)
- Therefore the people were able to understand the Law — (9b, 12b)

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

What Is Our Attitude Toward God's Word?



- **Can Be Seen In Our Desire To Understand It— 8:8-12**
- **Many DO NOT** — (2 Ti 4:2-4)
- **We NEED to** — (Heb 5:12-14; 2 Pet. 2:18; 3:15-18; Eph 4:14; 2 Cor 11:13-15)
- **We CAN** — (John 7:17; Eph 3:3-5; Acts 17:11,12; 2 Ti 2:15)

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

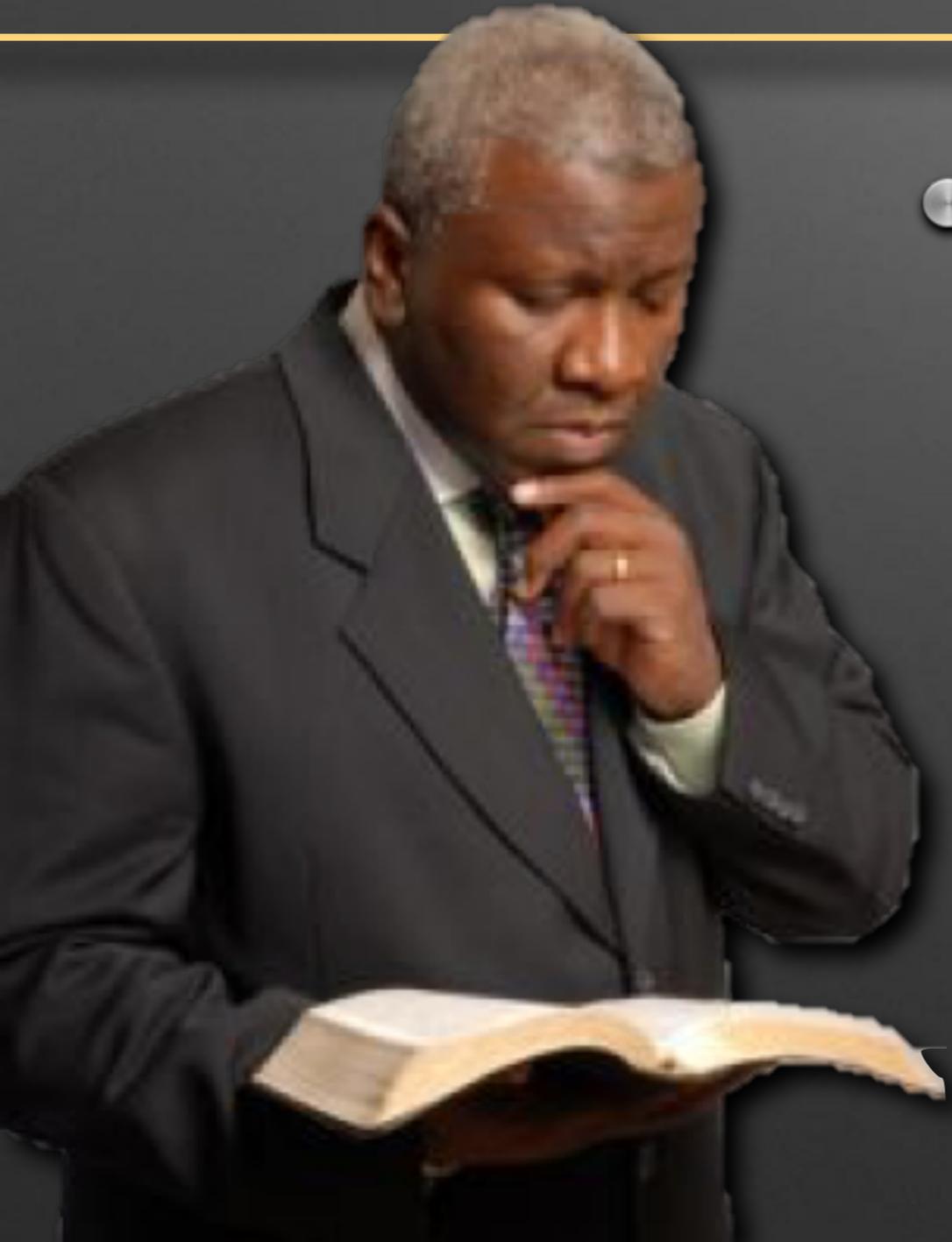
What Is Our Attitude Toward God's Word?



- **Can Be Seen In Our OBEDIENCE to It – 8:8-12**
- Did as instructed – (10-12)
- Repented of not keeping the feast days / went to the original pattern - (Neh. 8:13-17).
- Put away their pagan wives - (Neh. 13:1-3).

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

What Is Our Attitude Toward God's Word?



- **Can Be Seen In Our OBEDIENCE to It – 8:8-12**
- The need for humility — James 4:7-10; Luke 6:46
- Faith without works is dead — Jam 1:21-25; 2:14-26; Mt 7:21-23
- The faith that saves is the faith that OBEYS — Heb 11:1-12:3; Rom 6:1-23; Heb 5:8,9

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

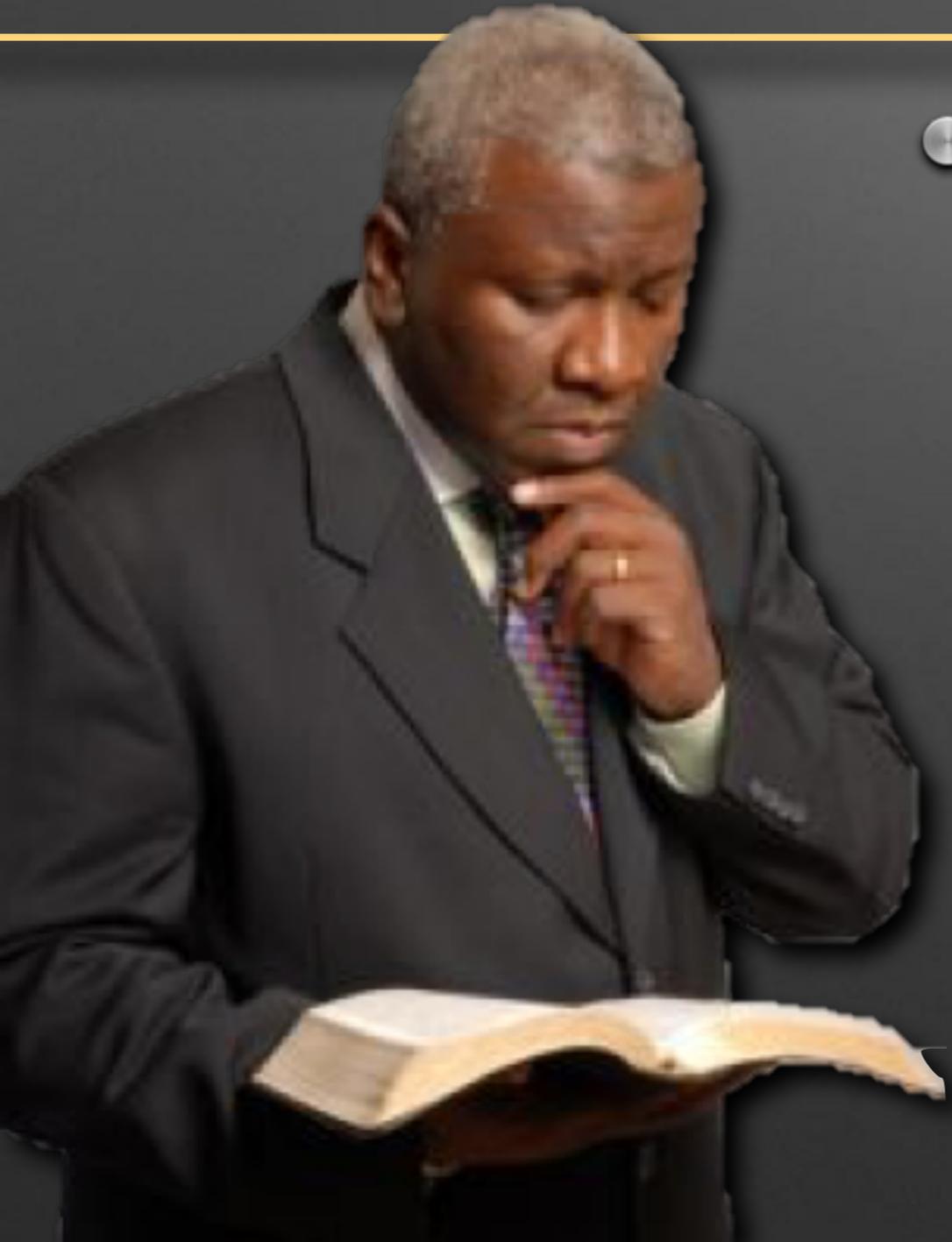
What Is Our Attitude Toward Worship?



- Can Be Seen In Our Preparation & Attendance – 8:3,4,9,12,13-18
- **A planned event that the people prepared for** – (They prepared a place for hearing and their hearts to hear, learn and obey)
- **Ezra and those who helped him were prepared** – (Ezra had prepared his heart, (Ezra 7:10), others were prepared to explain)

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

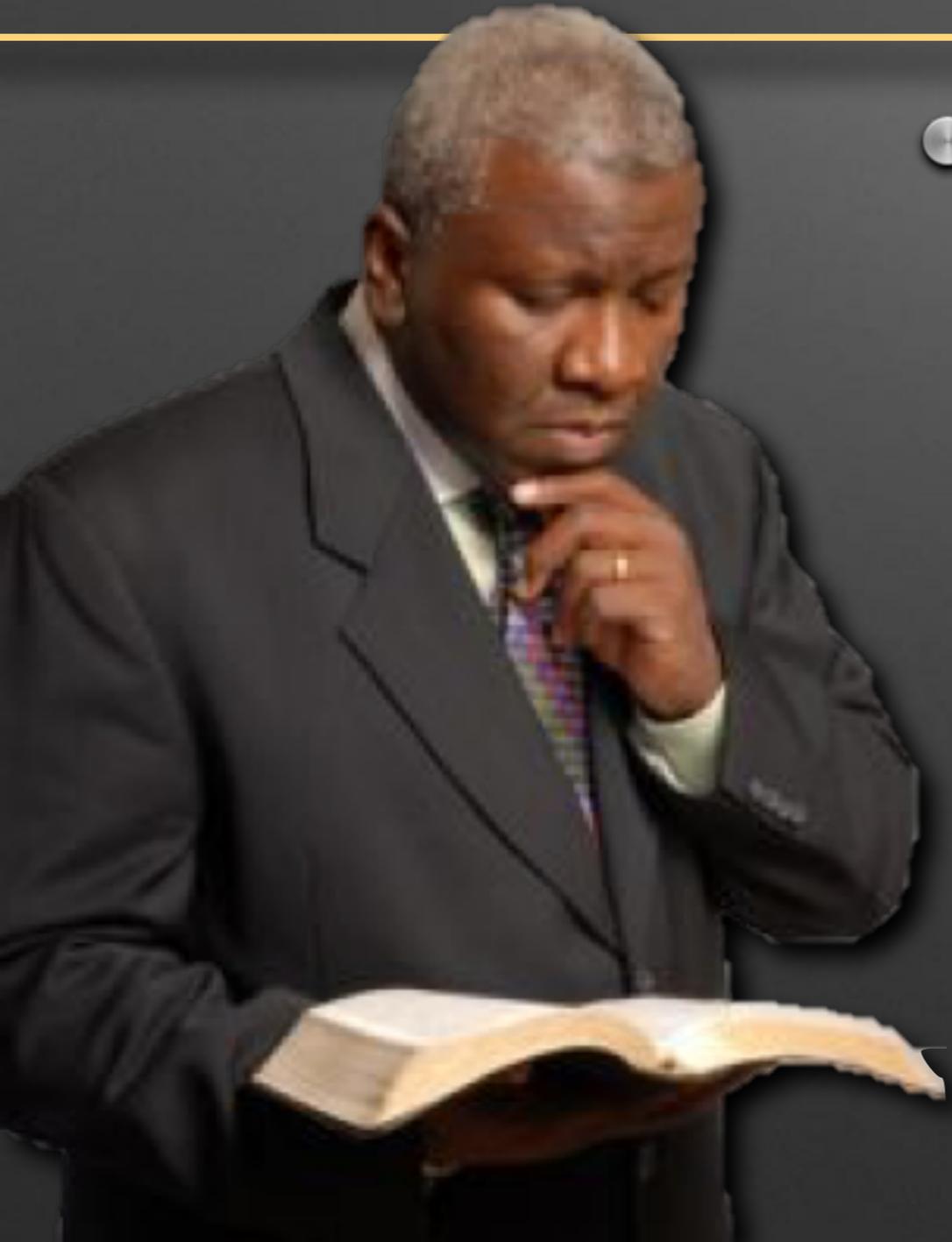
What Is Our Attitude Toward Worship?



- Can Be Seen In Our Preparation & Attendance – 8:3,4,9,12,13-18
- What preparations do we make on Saturday? Saturday evening?
- Do we prepare for Bible classes?
- Do we plan things out so we will be on time?
- We all expect teachers, song leaders & preachers to be present, prepared & on time - but what about ME?

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

What Is Our Attitude Toward Worship?



- Can Be Seen In Our Preparation & Attendance – 8:3,4,9,12,13-18
- **Day Before** - study material, sermon text / Go to bed early
- **Sunday Morning** — Get up on time / Pray, meditate / Eat / drink / leave early
- **Arrival** — Be on time / use bathroom / drink water / focus / Turn off phones
- **Worship** — Have your mind cleared so you can concentrate on each act.

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

What Is Our Attitude Toward Worship?



- **Seen In Our Actions** – 8:5-7
 - When Ezra opened the scroll the people stood - (5)
 - Responded to Ezra’s praising God by saying “Amen” – raising their hands and bowing themselves — (6)
 - Remained in their place as the Law was explained — (7,8)
 - Penitent / Joyful / Obedient — (9-18)

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

What Is Our Attitude Toward Worship?

Leviticus 10:3
(NKJV)

³ And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying: ‘By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.’ ...

Psalms 89:7
(NKJV)

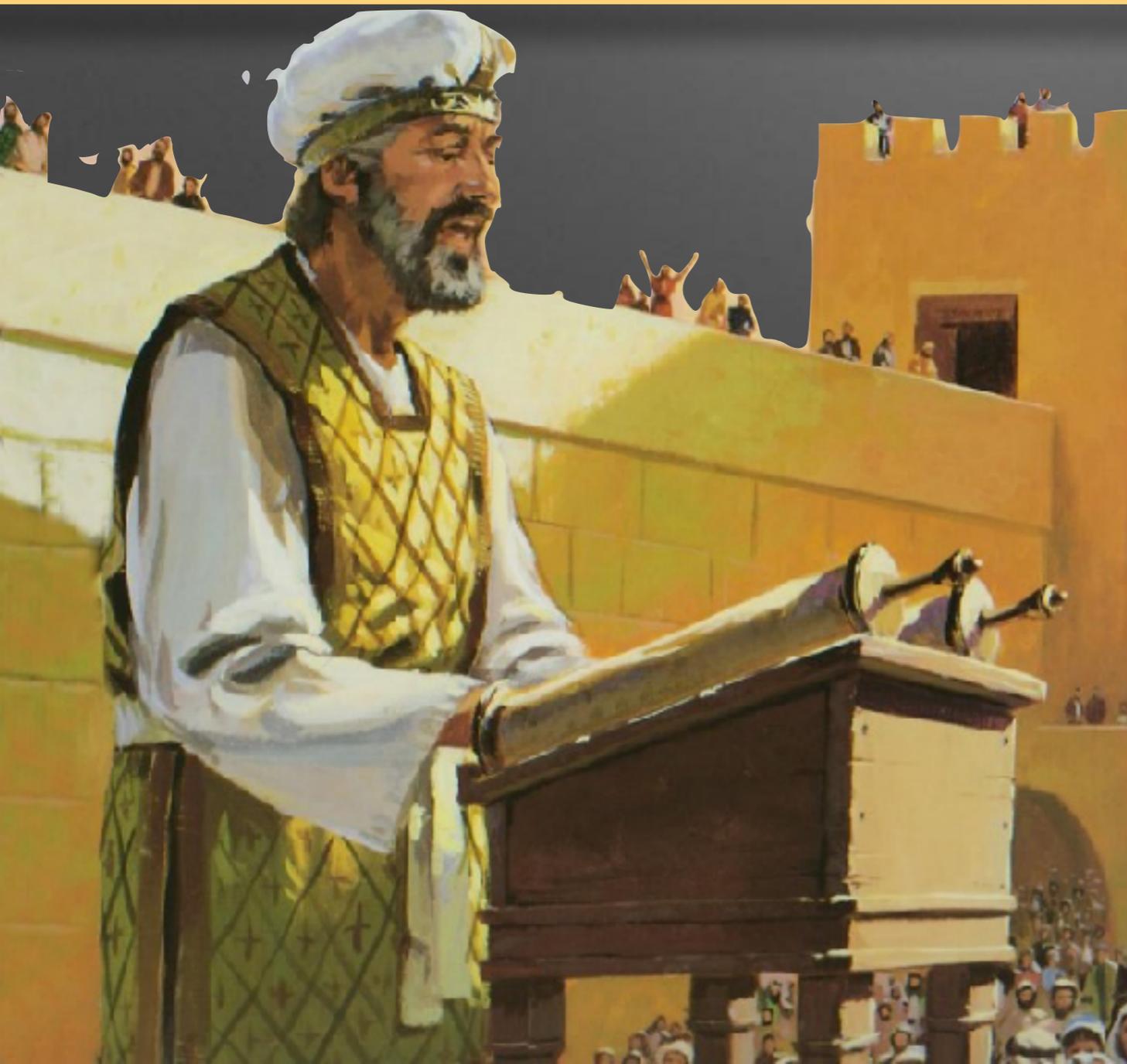
⁷ God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all *those* around Him.

Hebrews 12:28
(NKJV)

²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

What Is Our Attitude Toward Worship?



John 4:23–24 (NKJV)
²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

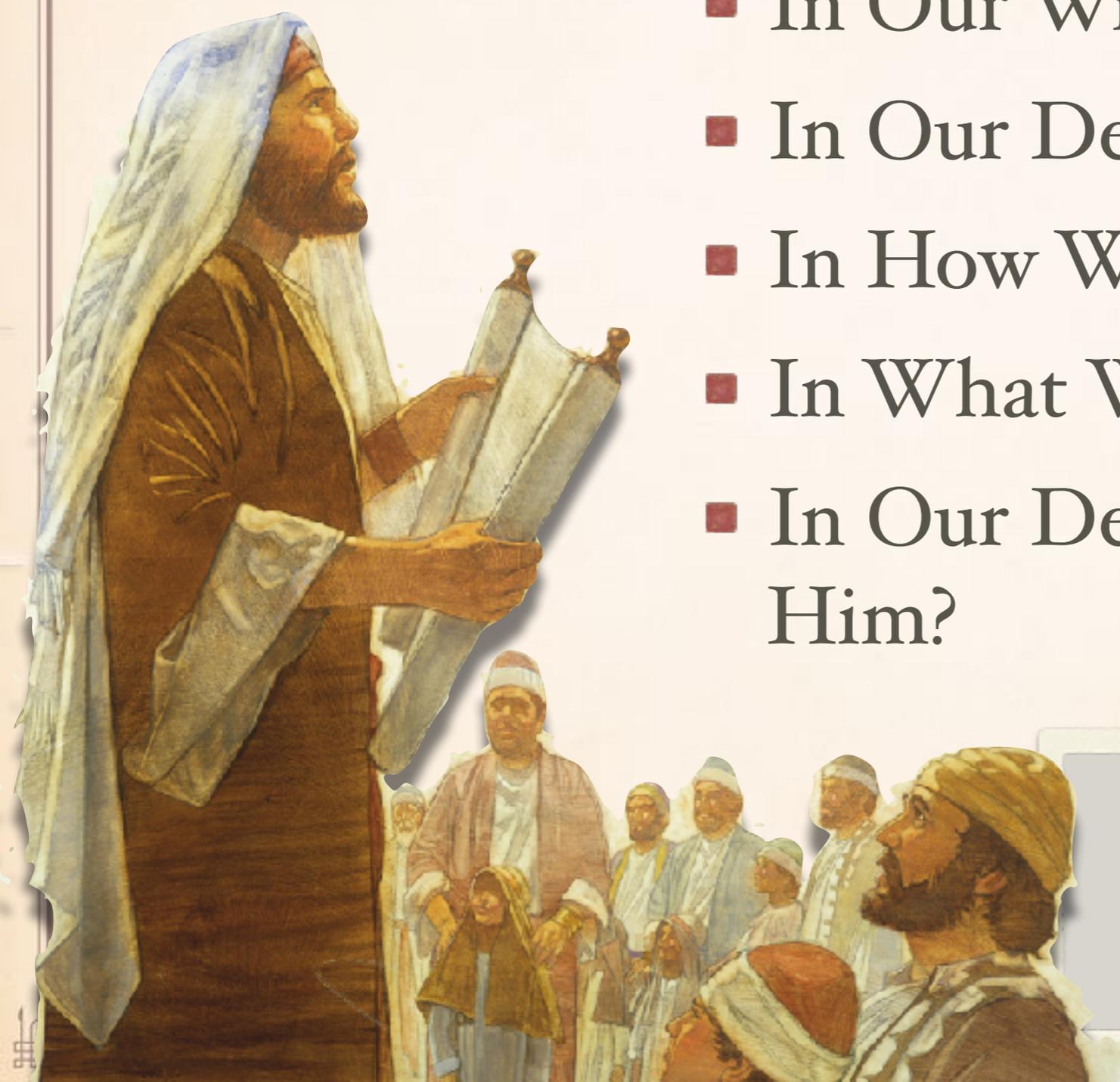
What Is Our Attitude Toward Worship?



Matthew 15:7–9 (NKJV)
7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah
prophecy about you, saying:
8 *‘These people draw near to Me
with their mouth, And honor
Me with their lips, But their
heart is far from Me. 9 And in
vain they worship Me,
Teaching as doctrines the
commandments of men.’*”

DEMONSTRATING REVERENCE *For* GOD

- In Our Willingness To Hear Him?
- In Our Desire To Please Him?
- In How We Approach Him?
- In What We Give To Him?
- In Our Determination To Obey Him?

An illustration depicting a scene from the Bible. On the left, a man with a long white beard and a white head covering (Nehemiah) stands in profile, holding an open scroll. He is wearing a brown robe. In the foreground, a man with a yellow turban and a brown robe is looking towards Nehemiah. In the background, a group of people, including men and women in various robes and head coverings, are gathered, some looking towards Nehemiah. The scene is set outdoors with a light, hazy background.

NEHEMIAH 8:1-12;
HEBREWS 12:25-29

ARE YOU DEMONSTRATING

THE

REVERENCE
For GOD

HE DESERVES?



NEHEMIAH 8:1-12;
HEBREWS 12:25-29

DEMONSTRATING

REVERENCE
For GOD



Charts by Don McClain

Prepared August 30–Sept 3, 2016 / Preached Sept 4, 2016

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Prepared w/ Keynote More lessons: <http://w65stchurchofchrist.org/coc/sermons/>

PSALM 119:97-104 (NKJV)

⁹⁷ Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. ⁹⁸ You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. ⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. ¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts.

PSALM 119:97-104 (NKJV)

¹⁰¹ I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word.

¹⁰² I have not departed from Your judgments, For You Yourself have taught me. ¹⁰³ How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth! ¹⁰⁴ Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.