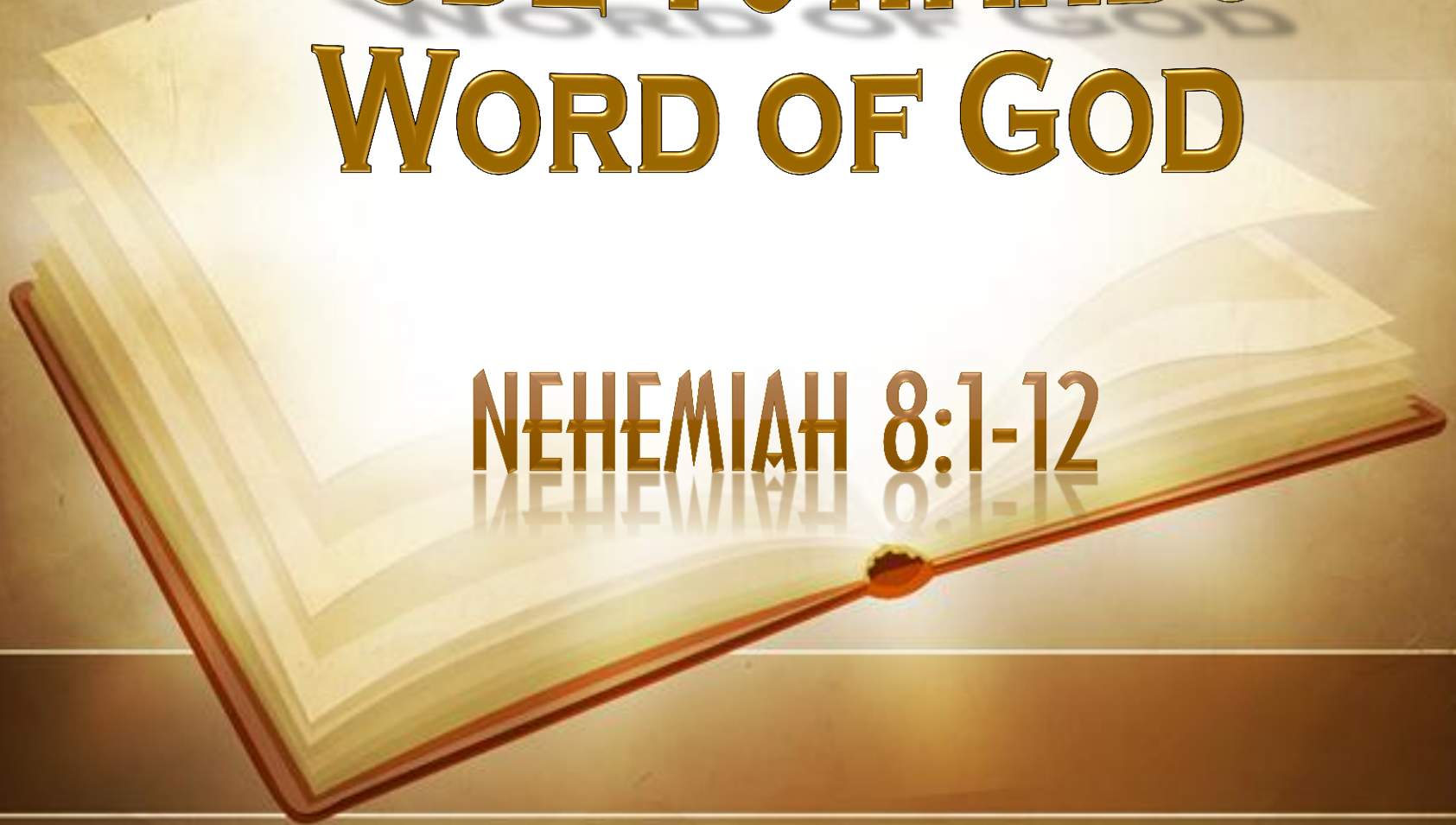
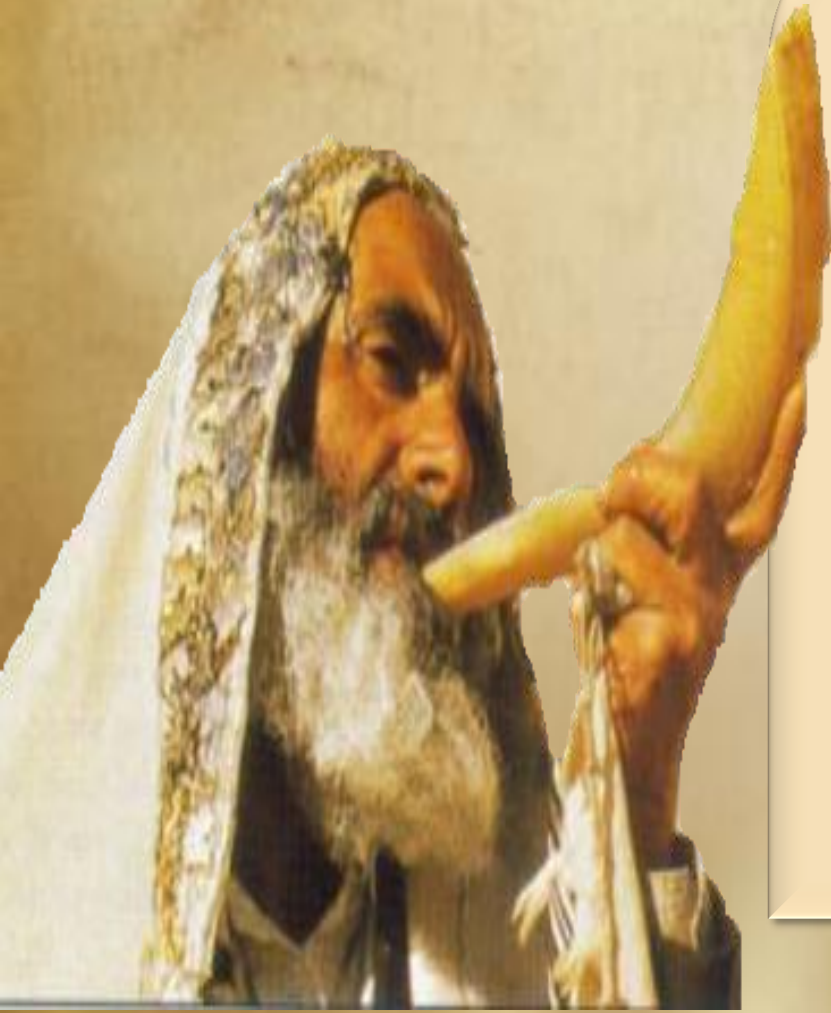


# REFLECTING UPON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WORD OF GOD

NEHEMIAH 8:1-12

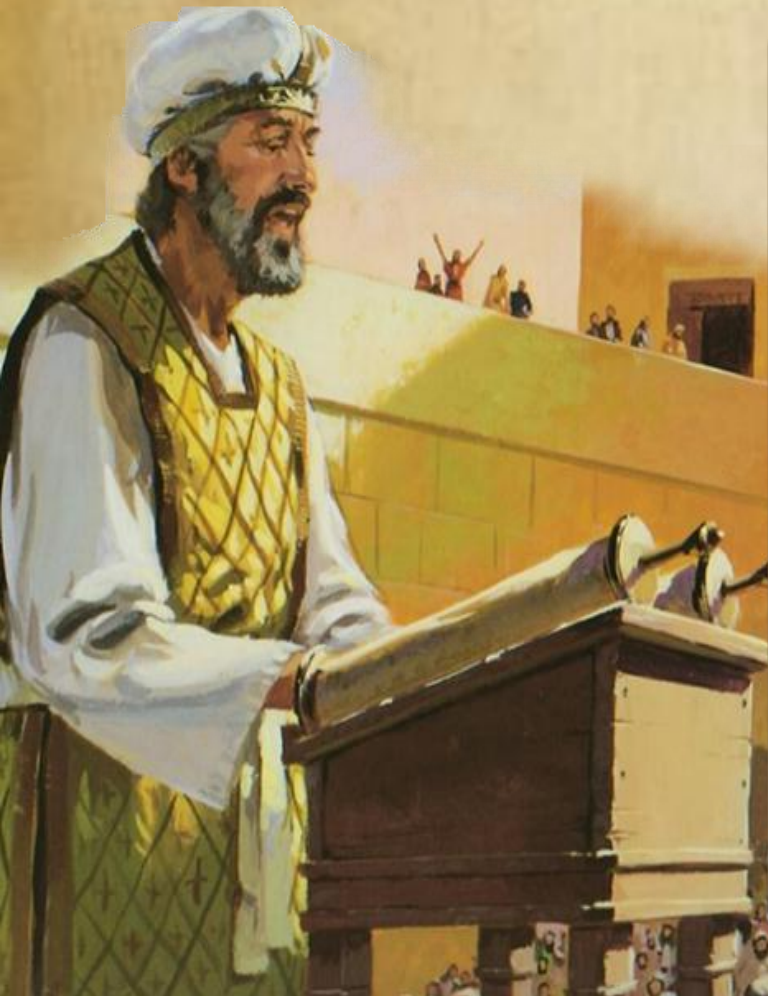


# REFLECTING UPON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WORD OF GOD



- ◆ The walls of Jerusalem have been completed and the people have returned to settle in their homeland – Neh. 1:1-7:73
- ◆ It was the seventh month, (Tishri - Sept. – Oct.), the Feast of Trumpets began the month of festivals- (Lev. 23:24; Num. 29:1), the 10<sup>th</sup> day was the day of atonement, (Lev. 16: 23:26-32), the 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> was the Feast of Tabernacles, (Lev. 23:33-36).

# REFLECTING UPON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WORD OF GOD



- ◆ The priesthood and sacrificial system had been restored at an earlier time, (Ezra 3:1-13),
- ◆ 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 8:1-12)



# REFLECTING UPON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WORD OF GOD

## **Nehemiah 8:1-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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.



# REFLECTING UPON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WORD OF GOD

## **Nehemiah 8:1-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> 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.

# REFLECTING UPON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WORD OF GOD

## **Nehemiah 8:1-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> 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.



# REFLECTING UPON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WORD OF GOD

## **Nehemiah 8:1-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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.



# REFLECTING UPON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WORD OF GOD

## **Nehemiah 8:1-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.



# REFLECTING UPON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WORD OF GOD

## **Nehemiah 8:1-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared;



# REFLECTING UPON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WORD OF GOD

## **Nehemiah 8:1-12 (NKJV)**

for *this* day is holy to our LORD. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." <sup>11</sup> So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved." <sup>12</sup> 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.



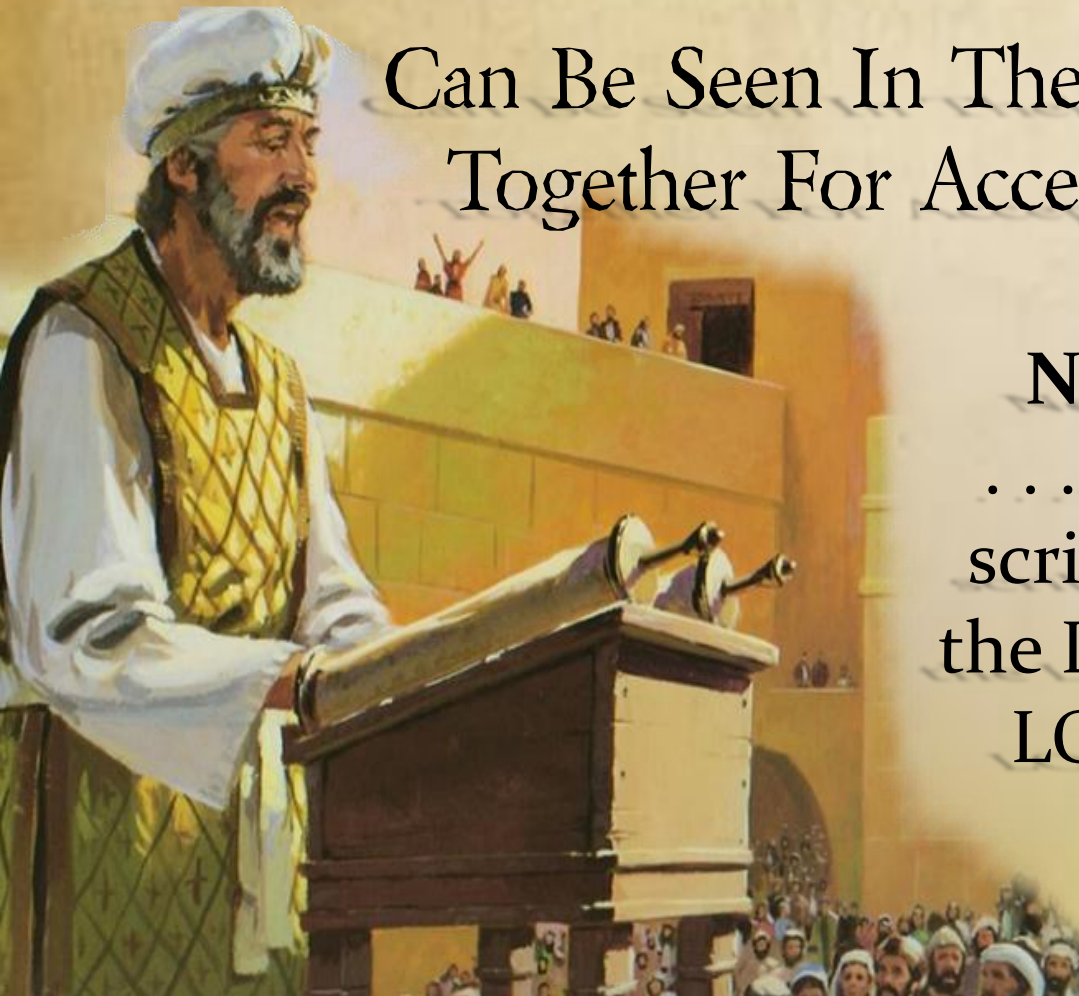
# They Wanted To Learn

*[1] . . . all the people gathered together as one man*

Can Be Seen In Their Desire To Assemble  
Together For Acceptable Worship – 8:1

**Nehemiah 8:1 (NKJV)**

. . . and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel.



# They Wanted To Learn

*[1] . . . all the people gathered together as one man*

Can Be Seen In OUR Desire To Assemble  
Together For Acceptable Worship – 8:1



- ♦ **To worship & hear God's word** – Acts 4:23-31; 20:7,8; 1 Cor. 11:33
- ♦ **Means of edification - not to be forsaken** – Heb. 10:24,25



# They Wanted To Learn

*[1] . . . all the people gathered together as one man*

Can Be Seen In OUR Desire To Assemble  
Together For Acceptable Worship – 8:1



- ♦ Some have the attitude of the Jews in Mal. 1:13 instead of the Jews in Nehemiah 8
- ♦ We should be like David - "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord" (Psalm 122:1).

# They Wanted To Learn

*[1] . . . all the people gathered together as one man*

Can Be Seen In OUR Desire To Assemble  
Together For Acceptable Worship – 8:1

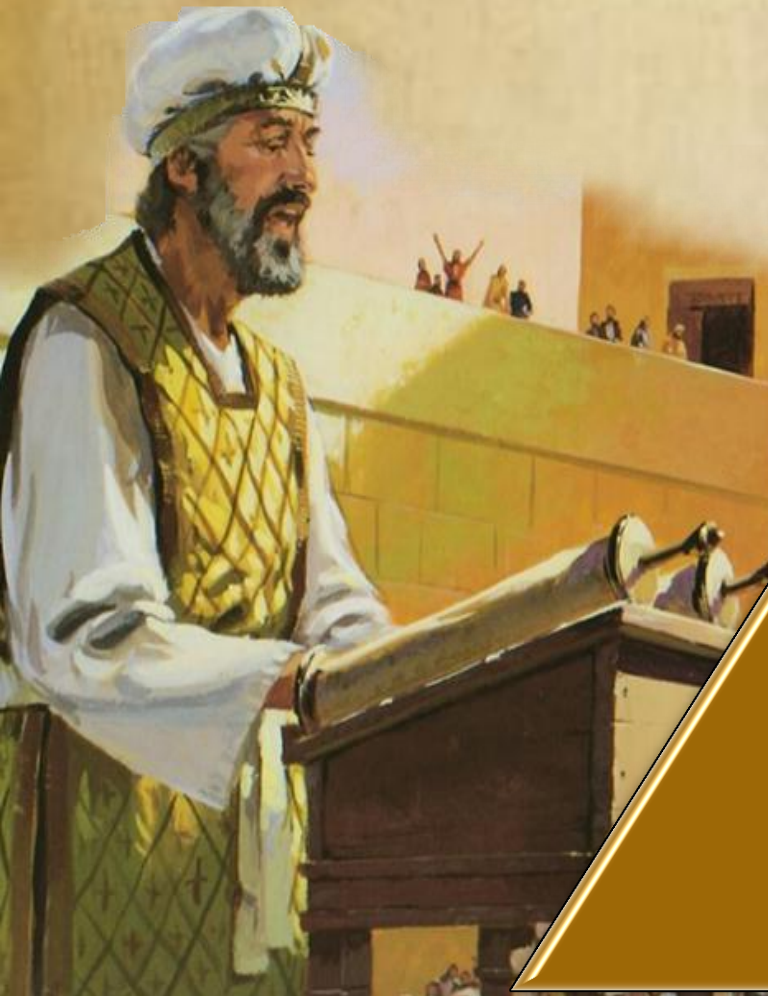
- ◆ They assembled with a united purpose, to learn what God had revealed to them so they could obey and be pleasing to Him – 8:1
- ◆ The goal of our teaching and preaching - Acts 10:24-33





# They Wanted To Learn

*[1] . . . all the people gathered together as one man*



## **Unity**

Ps 133:1; Phili 1:27

## **Conformity To The Truth**

Ephesians 4:1-16;  
1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 John 1:7

## **God's Word – The Truth**

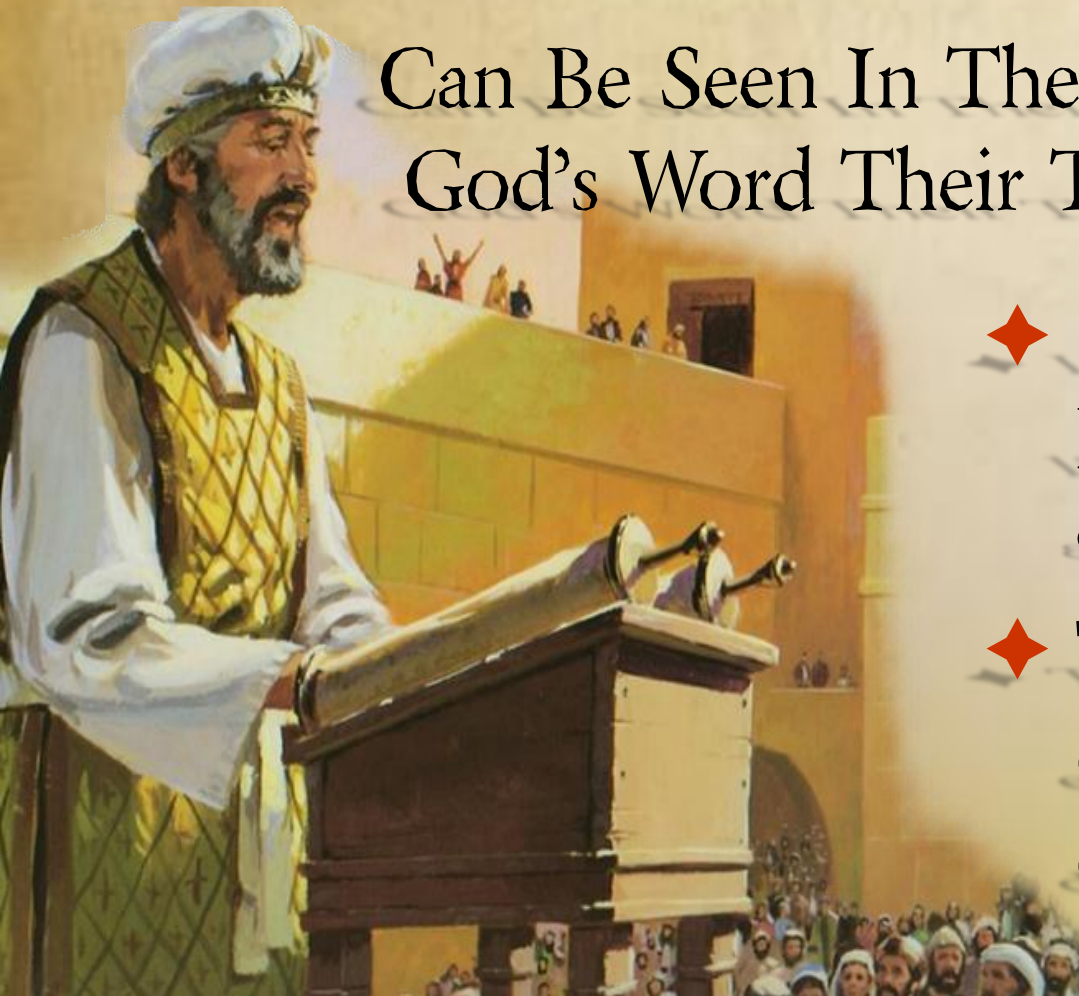
John 17:20;  
Ephesians 4:4-6; 11-15

# They Wanted To Learn

*[3] . . . all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.*

Can Be Seen In Their Willingness To Give  
God's Word Their Time & Attention– 8:1

- ♦ Literally . . “From the light” (*about 6 hours, Keil & Delitzsch commentary*)
- ♦ The law was read each day of the seven day feast (vs. 18)

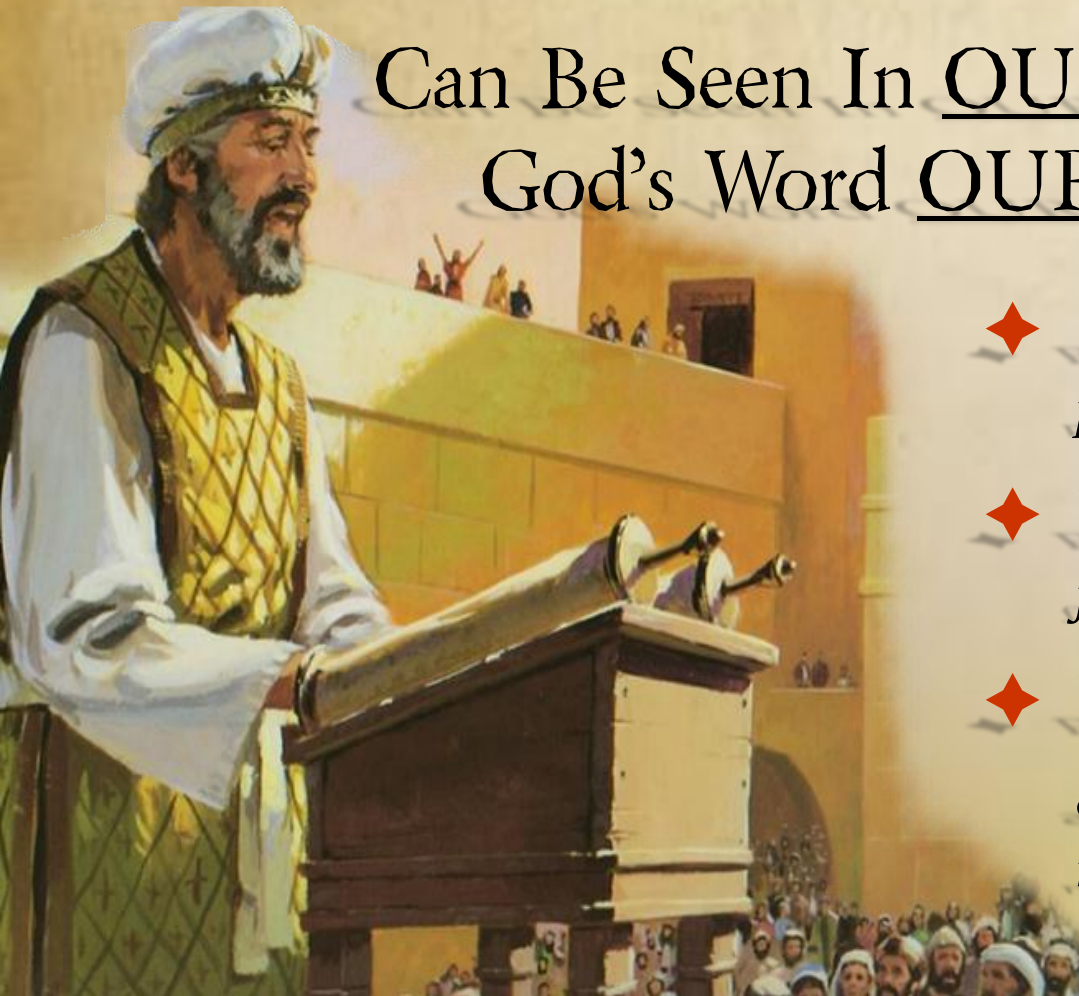




# They Wanted To Learn

*[3] . . . all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.*

Can Be Seen In OUR Willingness To Give  
God's Word OUR Time & Attention

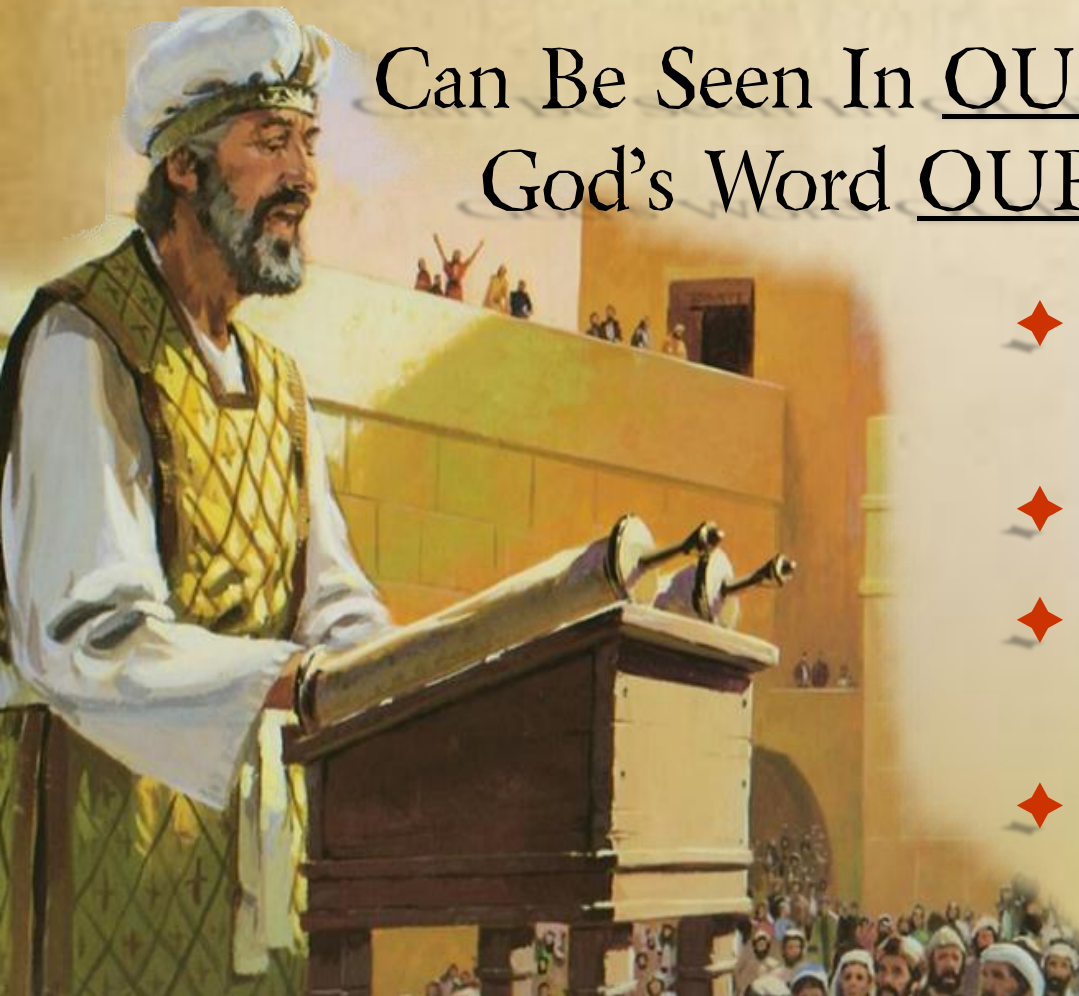


- ◆ Bible classes – (*Attendance, preparation, attentiveness*)
- ◆ Preaching – (*Listening, following in Bible, taking notes*)
- ◆ Personal Bible reading and study – (*Daily, habitual meditation, cross references*)

# They Wanted To Learn

*[3] . . . all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.*

Can Be Seen In OUR Willingness To Give  
God's Word OUR Time & Attention



- ♦ **Needed to build faith** – Romans 10:17
- ♦ **Needed to grow** – 1 Pet 2:2
- ♦ **Needed for us to teach others** – Heb. 5:12,13
- ♦ **Needed for us to discern good & evil** – Heb. 5:14



# They Wanted To Learn

*[3] . . . all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.*



Who is least enthused when a baseball game goes into extra innings?



Who is least enthused when a football game goes into overtime?

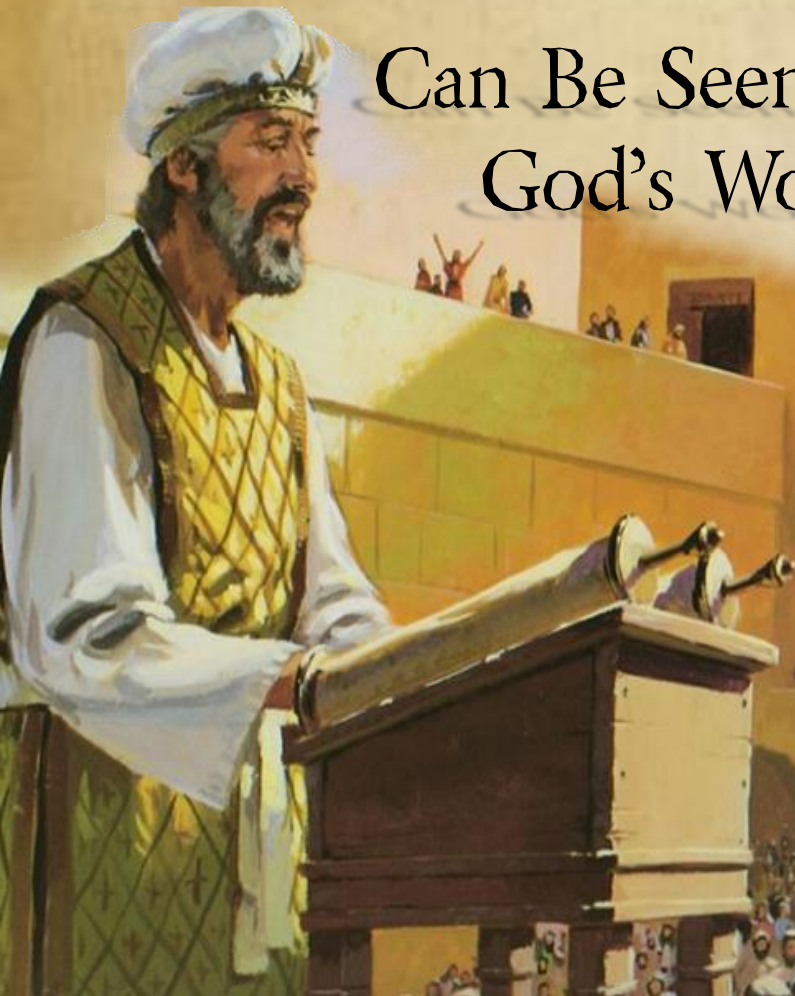


Who is least enthused at the length of an all day seminar?

# They Wanted To Learn

*[3] . . . all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.*

Can Be Seen In OUR Willingness To Give  
God's Word OUR Time & Attention



**“FOR WHERE YOUR  
TREASURE IS, THERE  
YOUR HEART WILL BE  
ALSO”**

*(Matt. 6:21).*

*(Amos 8:5; Rom 8:6)*

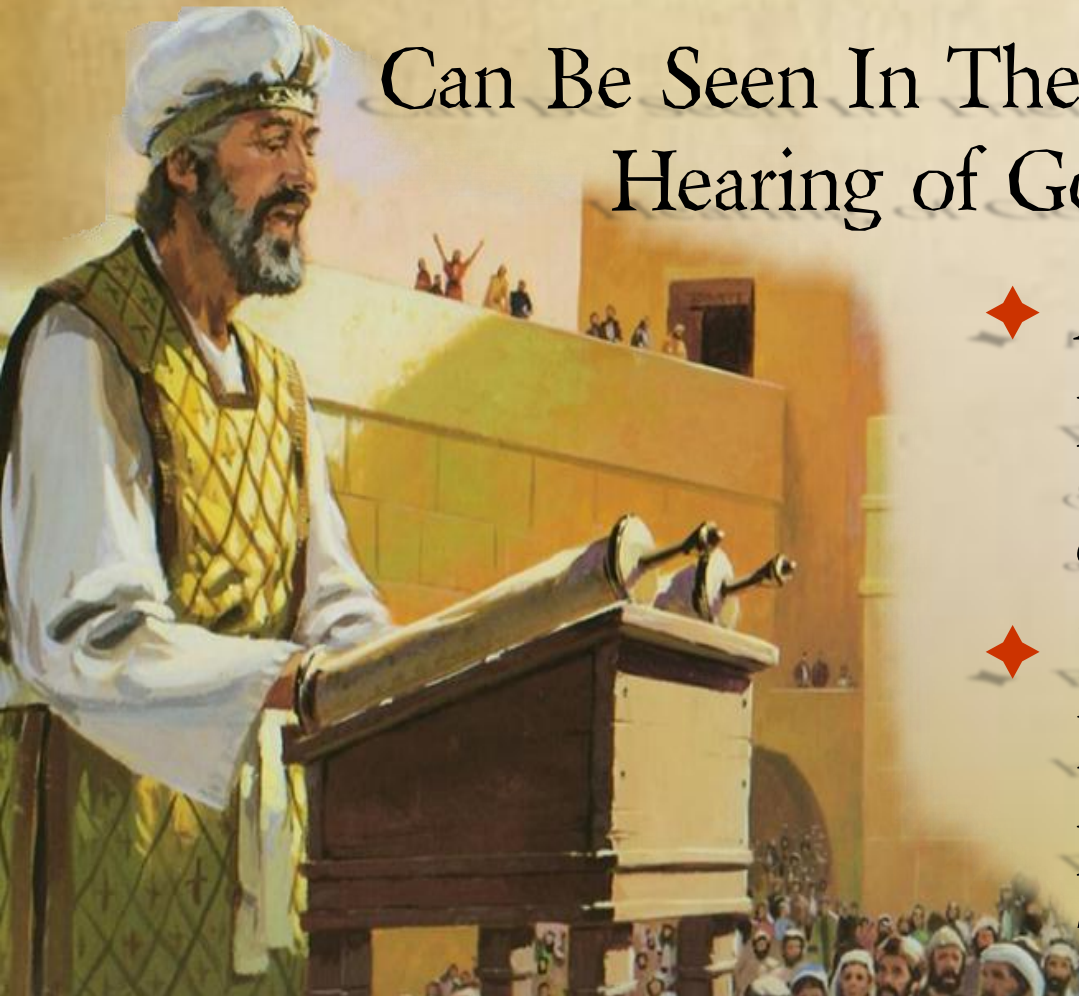


# They Gave It Respect

*[4] . . . which they had made for the purpose*

Can Be Seen In Their Preparation For The  
Hearing of God's Word – 8:4

- ◆ A planned event that the people prepared for –  
*(They were prepared to hear, learn and obey)*
- ◆ Ezra and those who helped him were prepared – *(Ezra had prepared his heart, (Ezra 7:10), the platform)*

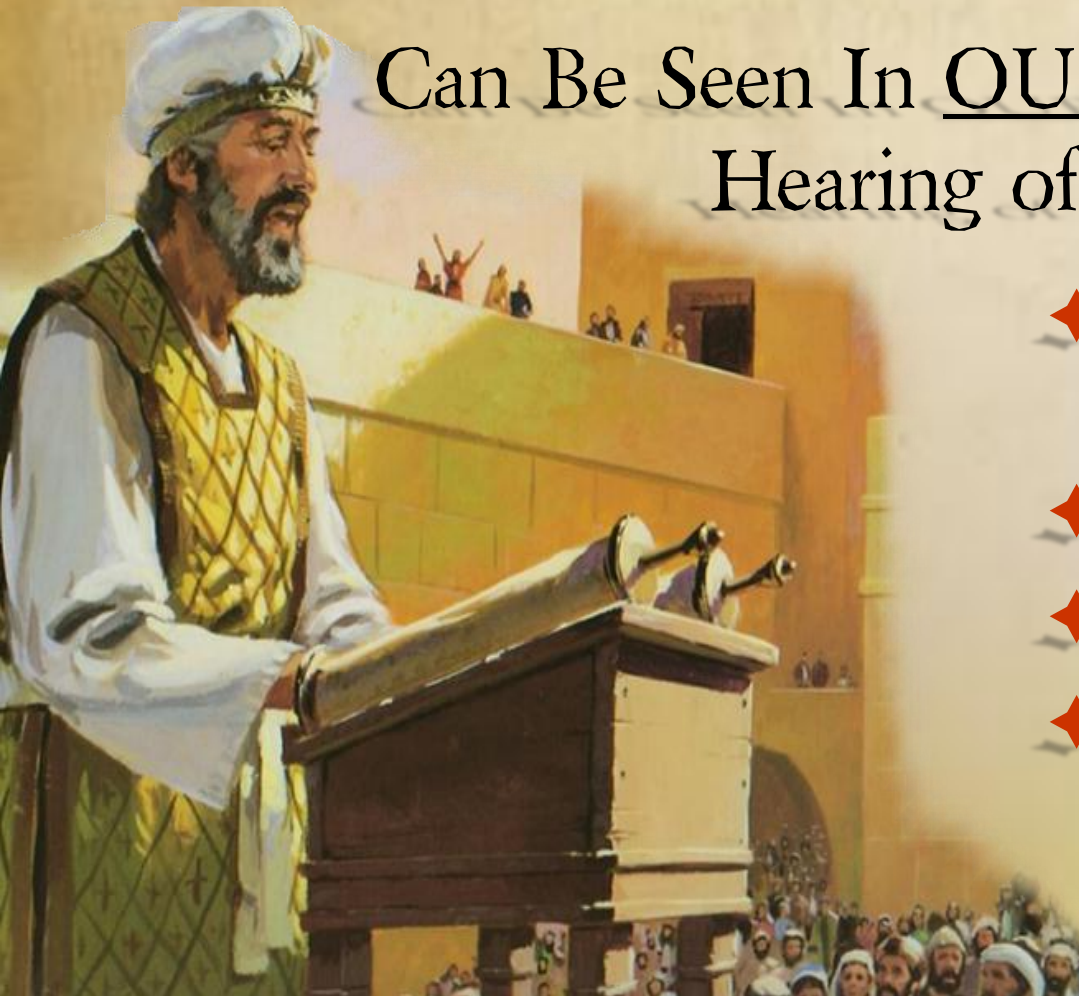


# They Gave It Respect

*[4] . . . which they had made for the purpose*

Can Be Seen In OUR Preparation For The  
Hearing of God's Word

- ◆ Going to bed at a reasonable hour
- ◆ Bible class preparation
- ◆ Punctuality
- ◆ Those leading the worship should be prepared.





# They Gave It Respect

*[4] . . . which they had made for the purpose*

## DAY BEFORE

- Get lesson
- Go to bed early

## SUNDAY MORNING

- Get up on time / Pray, focus
- Eat / drink water, juice, coffee . . .

## ARRIVAL

- Be on time / Go to bathroom / drink water
- Get focused / Turn off or silence phones

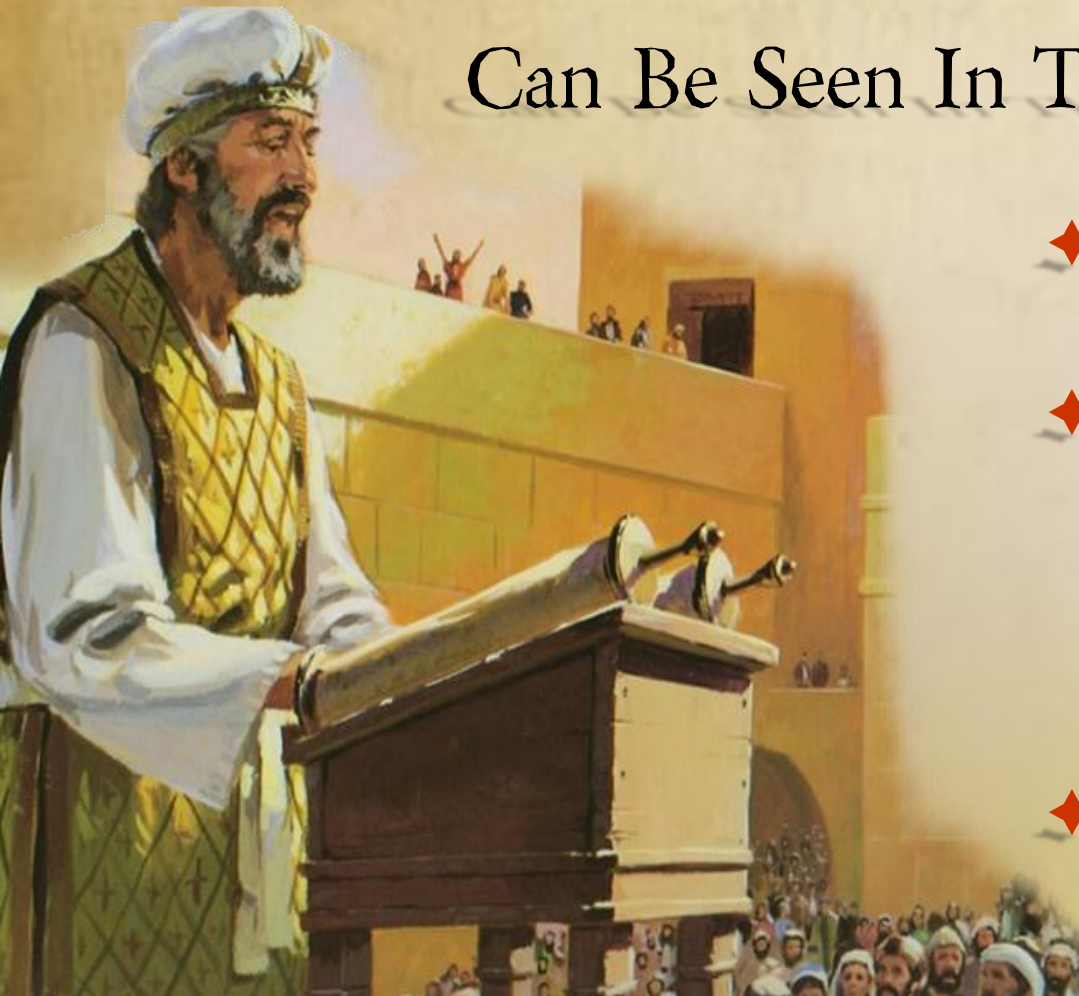
## WORSHIP

- Concentrate
- Be prepared to not distract others

# They Gave It Respect

*[5] . . . when he opened it, all the people stood up.*

Can Be Seen In Their Actions – 8:5-7



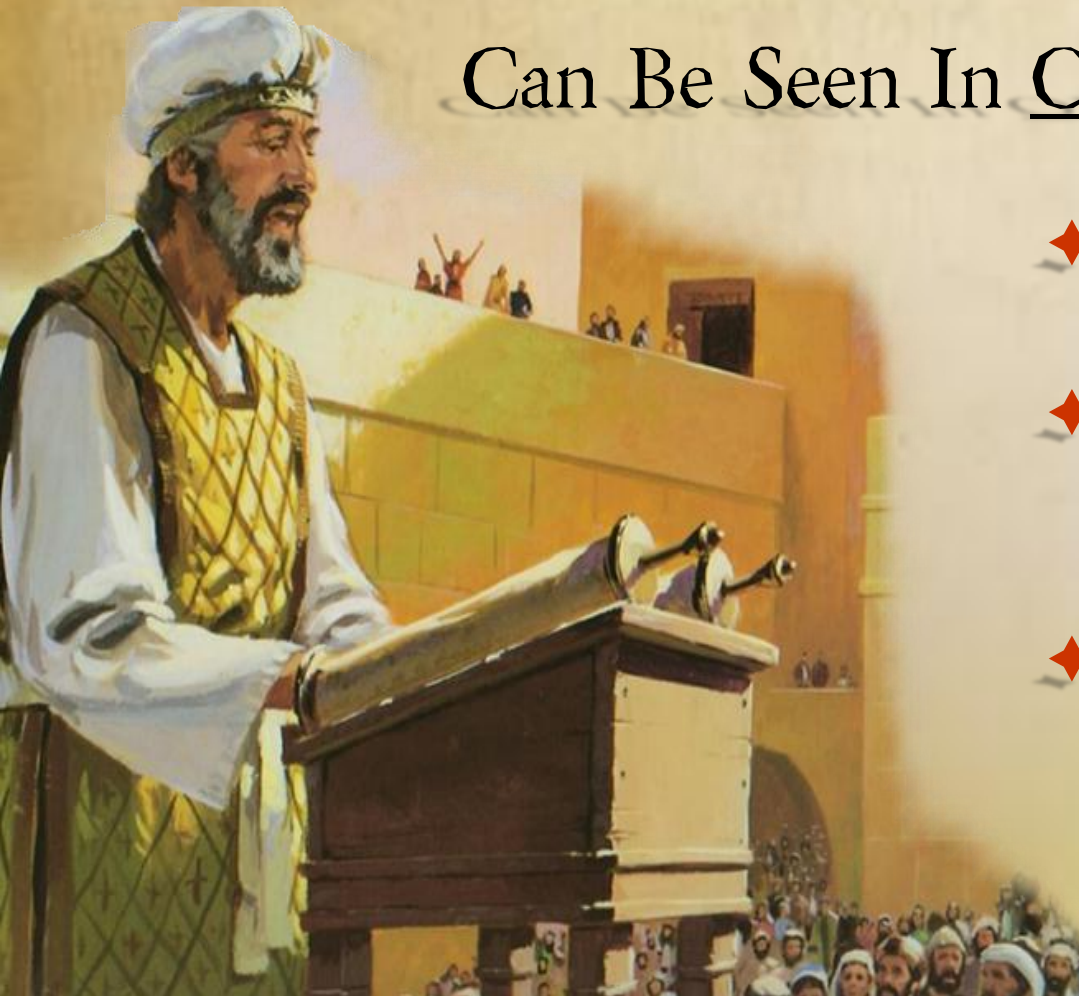
- ◆ When Ezra opened the scroll the people stood
- ◆ Responded to Ezra's praising God by saying "Amen" – raising their hands and bowing themselves . . .
- ◆ Remained in their place as the Law was explained . .



# They Gave It Respect

*[5] . . . when he opened it, all the people stood up.*

Can Be Seen In OUR Actions – 8:5-7



- ♦ The position of our hearts and minds . . .
- ♦ In our participation in the worship – (*worship is not a spectator event*)
- ♦ Remaining in our place, listening carefully and participating enthusiastically . . .

# They Gave It Respect

*[5] . . . when he opened it, all the people stood up.*

(Lev. 10:3)

- "By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified"

(Psalm 89:7 )

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

(Heb. 12:28)

- 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.



# They Gave It Respect

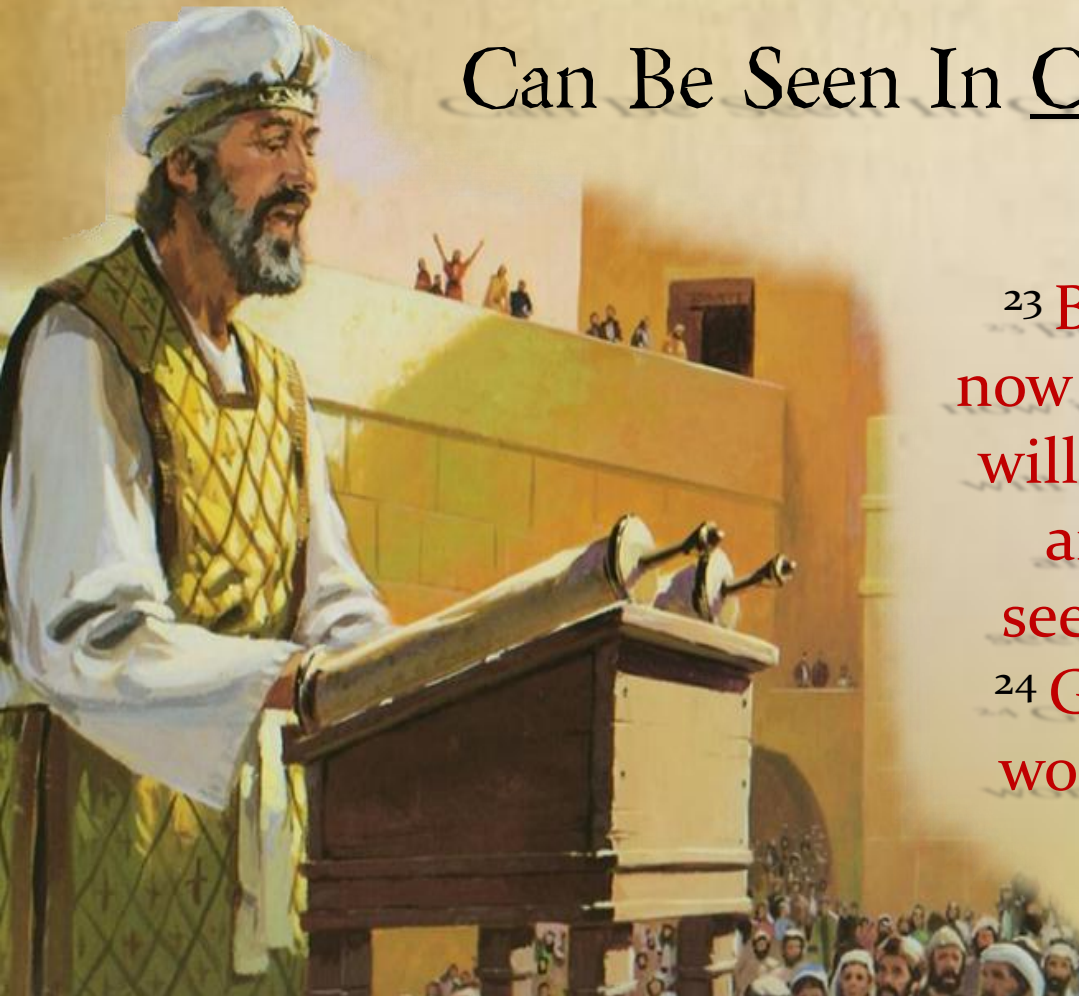
*[5] . . . when he opened it, all the people stood up.*

Can Be Seen In OUR Actions – 8:5-7

**John 4:23-24 (NKJV)**

**<sup>23</sup> 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.**

**<sup>24</sup> God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."**



# They Gave It Respect

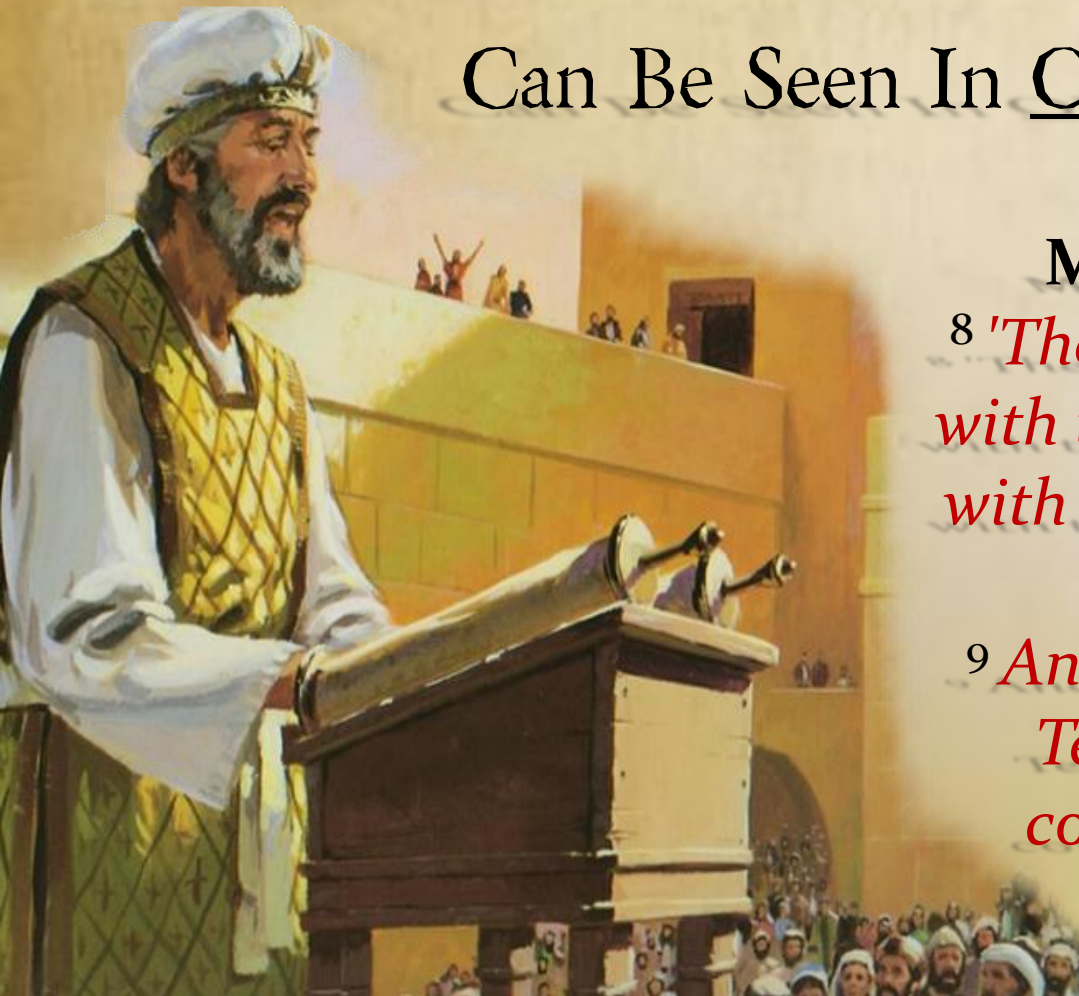
[5] . . . when he opened it, all the people stood up.

Can Be Seen In OUR Actions – 8:5-7

Matthew 15:8-9 (NKJV)

*<sup>8</sup> 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.*

*<sup>9</sup> And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' "*



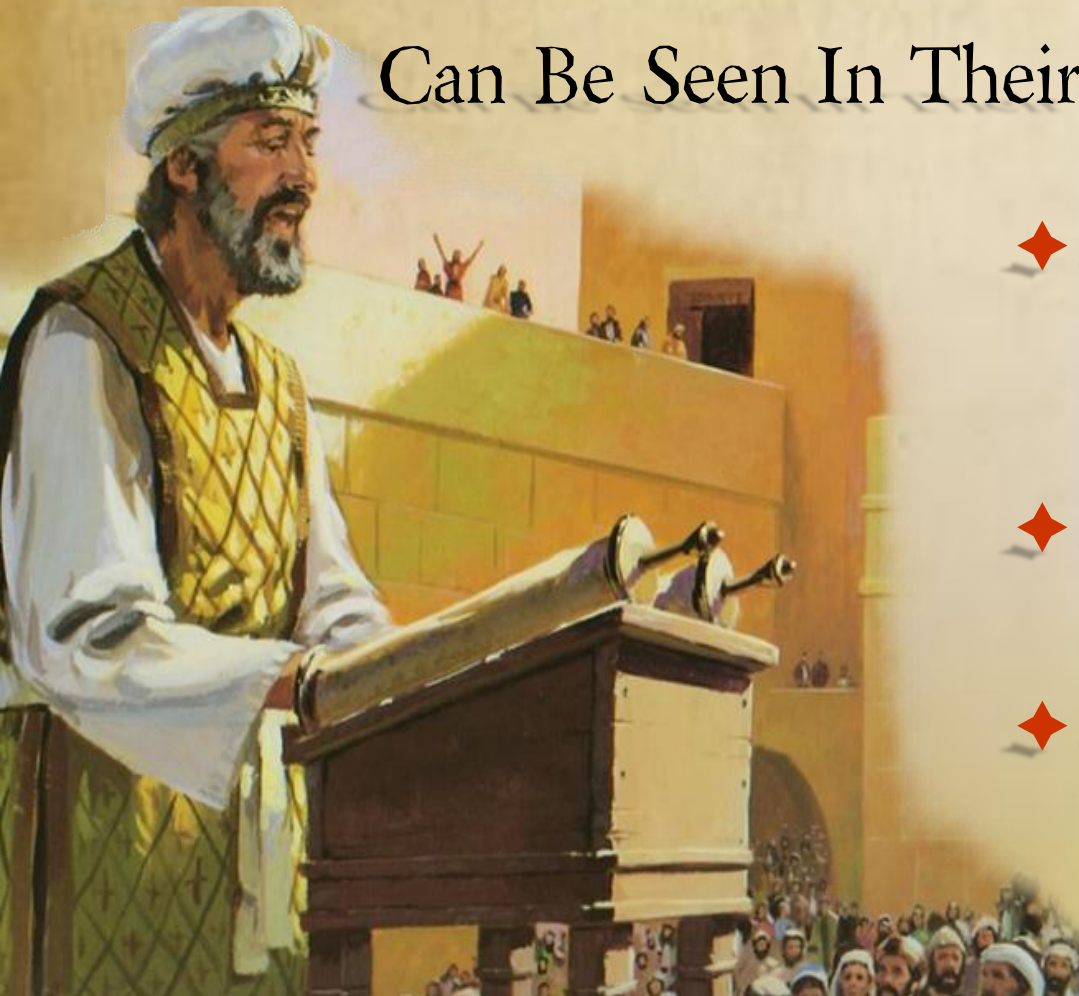


# They Sought Understanding

*[12] . . . they understood the words that were declared to them.*

Can Be Seen In Their Handling of 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)

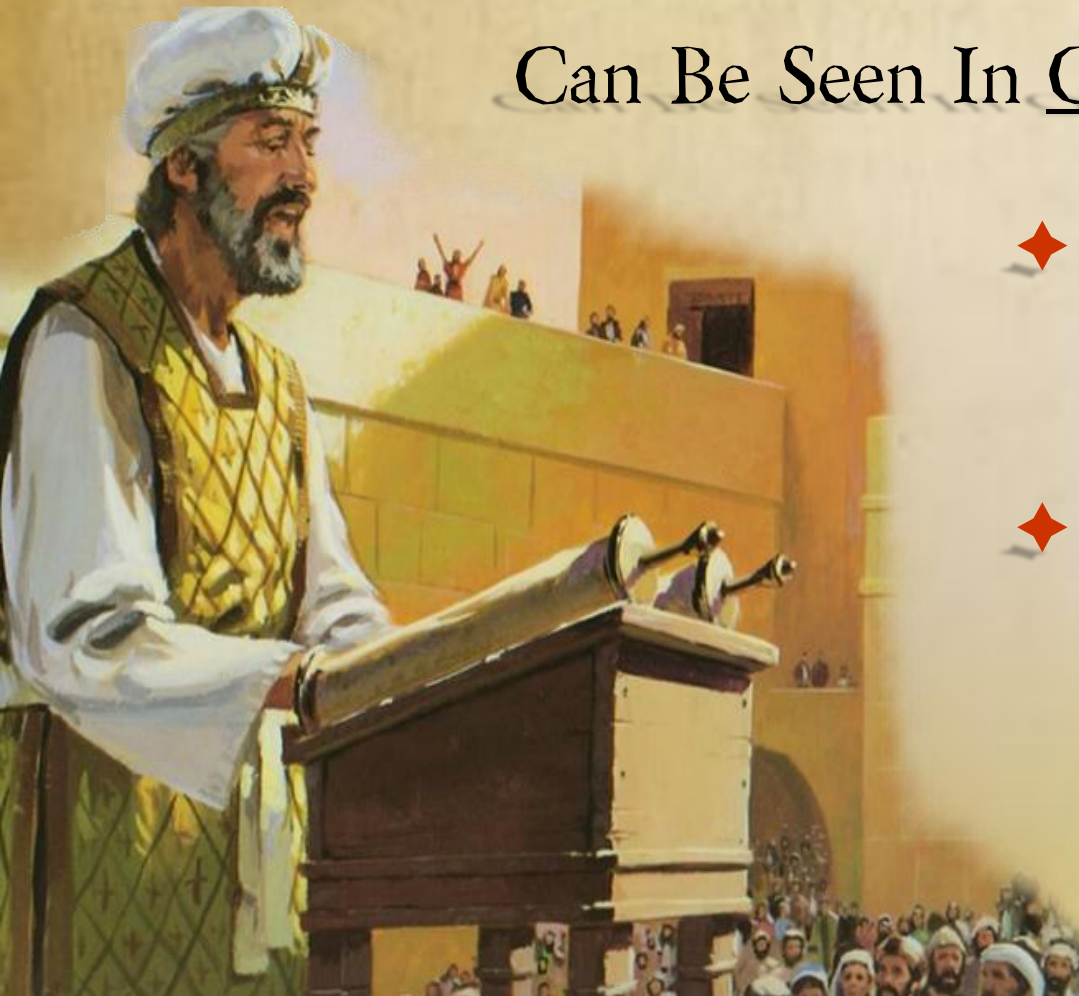


# They Sought Understanding

*[12] . . . they understood the words that were declared to them.*

Can Be Seen In OUR Handling of It

- ◆ People need to know what the scriptures say - (2 Tim 4:2; 1 Pet. 4:11)
- ◆ Good preaching and teaching explains what the scriptures mean - (Luke 24:27; 2 Tim 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:15-18)

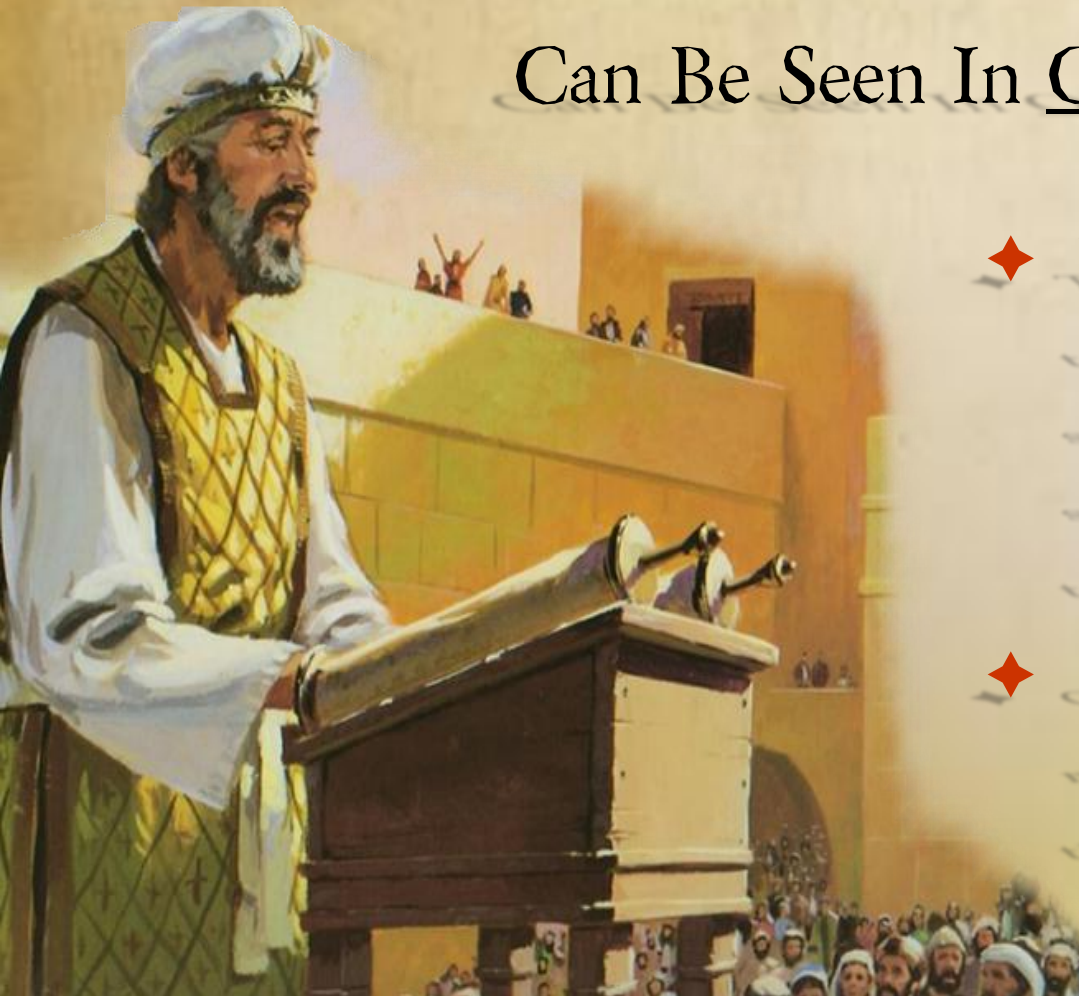




# They Sought Understanding

*[12] . . . they understood the words that were declared to them.*

Can Be Seen In OUR Handling of It

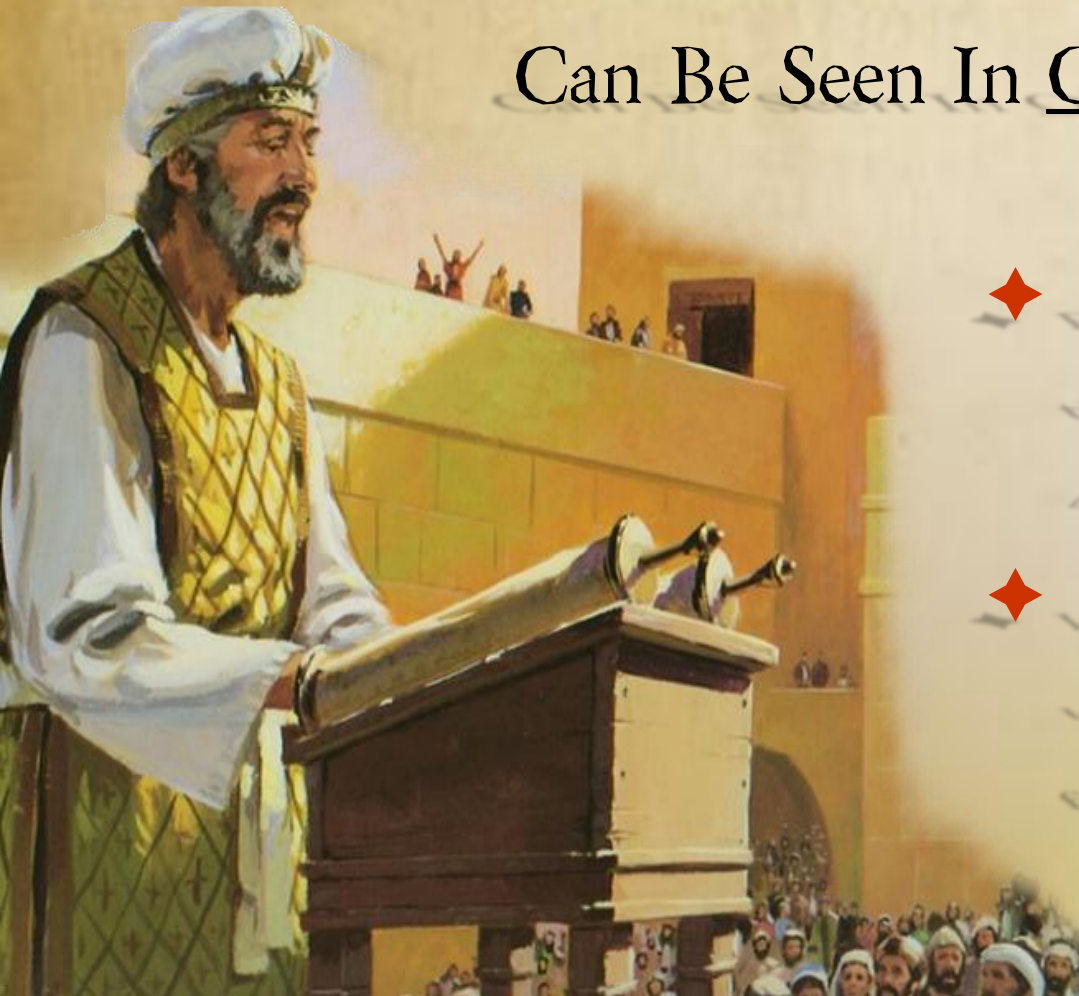


- ✦ Too many today use pulpits to entertain, tell jokes, tell stories, and focus more on social ills than actually teaching the word of God –
- ✦ Consequently, too many remain untaught about what the Bible actually teaches.

# They Sought Understanding

*[12] . . . they understood the words that were declared to them.*

Can Be Seen In OUR Handling of It



- ✦ False teachers prey on the uneducated – (Eph. 4:14; 2 Pet 2:18; 3:16-18)
- ✦ It takes longer to clean up a mess than starting from scratch . . .



# They Obeyed It

*[9] . . . For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law*



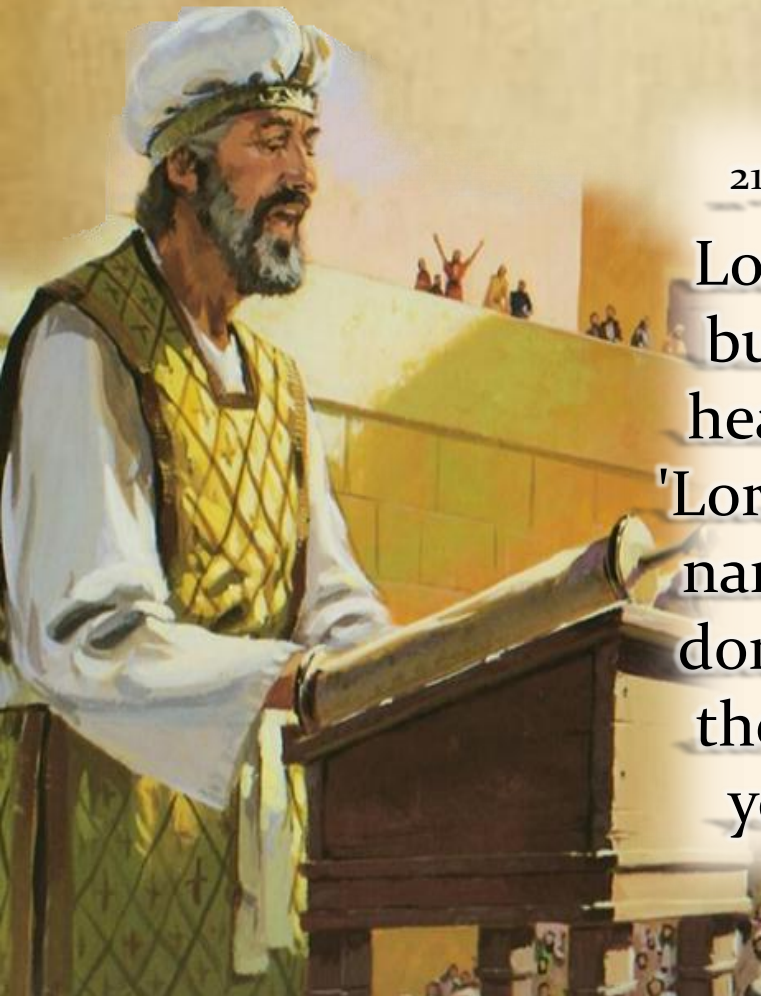
- ◆ They did as they were instructed – (10-12)
- ◆ They repented and corrected not keeping the feast days - (Neh. 8:13-17).
- ◆ Put away their pagan wives - (Neh. 13:1-3).

# They Obeyed It

*[9] . . . For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law*

## Matthew 7:21-23 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' <sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'





# They Obeyed It

*[9] . . . For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law*

## **James 1:21-25 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup> Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. <sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. <sup>25</sup> But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

# REFLECTING UPON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WORD OF GOD

- ◆ Do we hunger for it?
- ◆ Do we prepare ourselves to receive it?
- ◆ Do we reverence it?
- ◆ Do we seek to understand it?
- ◆ Are we willing to obey it?



## Matthew 11:28-30 (NKJV)

<sup>28</sup> Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."





# REFLECTING UPON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WORD OF GOD

## **Charts by Don McClain**

Prepared July 2,3, 2010

Preached July 4, 2010

West 65<sup>th</sup> Street church of Christ

P.O. Box 190062

Little Rock AR 72219

501-568-1062

Prepared using PPT 2010

Email – [donmcclain@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donmcclain@sbcglobal.net)

More PPT & Audio Sermons:

<http://w65stchurchofchrist.org/donmaccla/2010SermonPage.html>

Note – Many of the transition effects used in this presentation  
may be lost using PPT 2007 Viewer

[http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=c  
b9bf144-1076-4615-9951-294eeb832823&displaylang=en](http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=c<br/>b9bf144-1076-4615-9951-294eeb832823&displaylang=en)