

## People of the Book

Nehemiah 8:1-12

God's people become "People of the Book" after hearing it spoke to them and coming to an understanding of his message.

### 1. God's Word is Reverent

The Israelites took great care to ensure the reading of the Law was treated with respect:

- Feast of Trumpets (v. 2)
- At the Water Gate (v. 1)
- Leaders gathered around Ezra (vv. 4,7)
- All the people (vv. 2-3)
- Stood and worshiped God for the reading (vv. 5-6)
- Levites available to aid in understanding (vv. 7-8)

Key #1: Respect God's Word

Key #2: Teach God's Word to others

### 2. God's Word is Convicting

The Israelites wept because they realized that their sins led to their exile (v. 9)

God promised Israel that they would be blessed if they followed the law and cursed if they did not (Gen 12:1-3; Deut 27-30)

Key #3: God's Word illuminates our sin

### 3. God's Word Causes Us to Rejoice

Nehemiah explains that Ezra's reading in Jerusalem represents God fulfilling his promises (vv. 10-12)

God had promised to exile Israel for their sins

- "The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them. And you shall be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth" - Deuteronomy 28:25

God promised to return the Israelites to the promised land (Dan 9:13-25)

Key #4: God's Word reveals his promises

Key #5: Like Israel, we need to be "People of the Book"

**Christ is the Word of God Incarnate!**