

## Week # 54 Casual Observations

**1-9-2023** Ps.146; Ps.147; Neh.7:73b-9:37

**Question:** Why was "the joy of the Lord" their strength? Explain the setting for this phrase.

**Answer:** Neh.7:1-12

- Ps.146 The right and best place to lay all your trust and hopes - The everlasting God
- Ps.147 The stars are numbered and named; a God of unlimited understanding is He. Exclusively revealed His laws to Israel
- Neh.7:73b-8:12 The reading and explaining to the people from the Law of Moses 1<sup>st</sup> day 7<sup>th</sup> month, it was a great day
- Neh.8:13-18 Reading from the Books of Moses, a 7 day campout like the old days
- Neh.9:1-5a Day 24 of 7<sup>th</sup> month another gathering  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a day hearing the Word,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the day in repenting, confessing and worship.
- Neh.9:5b-37 A historical recounting of their history, the reason for their plight.

**1-10-2023** Neh.9:38-11:36 **Question:** What did the people sign and to what did they agree? **Answer:** Neh.9:38-10:39

- Neh.9:38-10:39 A covenanted (signed and sealed) response to their historical failures, committed to do better.

- Neh.10:37-39 A tithing for the priests and temple servants - "we will not neglect the house of our God."

- Neh.11:1-36 A resettling of the people, the lots cast for who populates Jerusalem

**1-11-2023** 1Chr.9:1b-34; Neh.12:1-47 **Question:** What happened on the wall around Jerusalem and at the House of God? **Answer:** Neh.12:27-43

- 1Chr.9:1b-34 An ordered accounting of who returned from exile and some of their responsibilities.
- 1Chr.10:22-27 "guarding the gates of the house of the Lord - the house called the Tent"
- Neh.12:1-26 A listing by name and family of those brought back to Jerusalem from exile.
- Neh.12:27-30 The dedication of the walls and gates restored around Jerusalem.
- Neh.12:31-43 The processions split - on top of the wall, marched in both directions around the city.
- Neh.12:44-47 Some final details for service of the temple and city

**1-12-2023** Neh.13:1-31; Joel 1:1-2:32 **Question:** Is there a glimpse of a New Testament event portrayed in these passages? **Answer:** Joel.2:28-32

- Neh.13:1-14 The Law revealed a slight of the law being done, Tobiah cast out of the storerooms.

- Neh.13:15-22 Ordered observation of the Sabbath day - no work, or buying and selling.
- Neh.13:23-30 A cleansing of the people polluted by inter marriages with the heathen nations.
- Joel.1:1-20 A call for restored Israel to repent and relent from sin and neglect.
- Joel.2:1-2 "the day of the Lord is coming"
- Joel.2:3-10 A description of what is coming
- Joel.2:11-18 A call for repentance
- Joel.2:19-27 God's response to their repentance.
- Joel.2:28-32 Descriptive language of God's deliverance - even ours too

**1-13-2023** Joel 3:1-21; Mal.1:1-4:6 **Question:** What ought to be found on a priest's lips? **Answer:** Mal.2:7

- Joel.3:1 "in those days" looking back to 2:28-32 and maybe more?
- Joel.3:2-3 A judgment at the valley of Jehoshaphat?
- Joel.3:4-8 A pronouncement against those who carried Israel off
- Joel.3:9-21 More detail about the Valley of Jehoshaphat/valley of decision for the all but not a terror for some?
- Joel.3:18 "A fountain will flow out of the Lord's House" What water?

- Mal.1:1-14 An oracle from the Lord - a questioning of what is truly holy behavior
- Mal.2:1-12 Words against the priests for not honoring God
- Mal.2:13-16 The holy covenant of marriage, God has made them one in spirit. A holy seed (singular) was God's aim in purity of blood line.
- Mal.2:17 A valid question for today as well, "how have we wearied Him?"
- Mal.3:1-5 Stirring words, the Lord returns to His temple
- Mal.3:6-12 Do not neglect the tithe (10%) to the Lord
- Mal.3:13-18 Those who fear the Lord, a scroll of remembrance is written.
- Mal.4:1-5 "Surely the day is coming....see I will send you the prophet Elijah...." "He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else.."

***Thus in our version of the Holy Bible, the very Word of God, the Old Testament ends, but did God really quit speaking?***