

SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERMON

THE REFORMATION OF THE HEART

Neh 13: 14, 22, 30-31

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7 JULY 2024



Overview:

Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai

FIRST RETURN	Esther	SECOND RETURN	THIRD RETURN
Rebuilding the TEMPLE		Rebuilding the PEOPLE	Rebuilding the WALLS
Zerubbabel & Jeshua		Ezra	Nehemiah
Prophet: Haggai, Zechariah			Prophet: Malachi
538 -516 BC		458 BC	445 BC – c.425BC
Ezra 1-6		Ezra 7-10	Nehemiah 1-13

¹ When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come on you and you take them to heart **wherever the LORD your God disperses you among the nations, ² **and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today,** ³ then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and **gather you again from all the nations where He scattered you.** ⁴ **Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the LORD your God will gather you and bring you back. Deuteronomy 30:1-4****

RECAP

- Rebuilding the **WALL** (Nehemiah 1-6)
- Rebuilding the **PEOPLE** (Nehemiah 7-10)



WORD

RETURN ↗

- **Community & Priority:** Gathering “as one man” (8:1), “men and women and all who could understand” (8:2-3)
- **Posture & Attitude:** “Attentive ears” (8:3), a reverence for God’s Word (8:4-6, 9)
- **Understanding & Support:** People understood, helped by the Levites who read clearly and gave the sense (8:7-8, 12)
- **Response:** Conviction & Weeping > Joy & Celebration (8:9-12)



**WORSHIP
WORD**

RETURN ↗

- **Worshipping God together:** As a community (8:1, 9:1, 3-5)
- **Feasts & Celebrations:** Remembering God's faithfulness, provision and power (8:13-18)
- **Confession & Repentance:** Responding to God's holiness, identifying with the sins of their ancestors (9:2, 6-37)



**WALK
WORSHIP
WORD**

RETURN

- **Renewal of Covenant:**
Return to relationship and identity as God's people (9:38, 10:1-29)
- **A Commitment to Obedience:**
In families (10:30), in business dealings (10:31), in giving (10:32-39)
- **A Commitment to Social Justice:**
Caring for the poor (5:1-13)

NEHEMIAH'S FINAL REFORMS

- Temple and its services (Nehemiah 13:1-14)
- Keeping the Sabbath holy (Nehemiah 13:15-22)
- Intermariage, Purity, Restore the priestly office, covenant of the priesthood and Levites (Nehemiah 13:23-31)

The danger of depending on man

6 Now this I know:

The LORD gives victory to His anointed.

He answers him from his heavenly sanctuary with the victorious power of His right hand.

7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

Psalms 20:6-7

The danger of empty formalism or cultural Christianity

8 “ ‘These people honor Me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from Me.

9 They worship Me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’ ”

Matthew 15:8-9

A REFORMED heart from God

- A personal knowledge of God (Jeremiah 31:31-34)
- A new heart and new spirit (Ezekiel 36:24-28)
- Surrender and obedience Jesus Christ as Lord
2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:29; Philippians 2:13
- Come to Me (Matthew 11:28-30)

“The revolution of Jesus is in the first place and continuously a revolution of the human heart or spirit. It did not and does not proceed by means of the formation of social institutions and laws, the outer forms of our existence, intending that these would then impose a good order of life upon people who come under their power.

Rather, His is a revolution of character, which proceeds by changing people from the inside through ongoing personal relationship to God in Christ and to one another. It is one that changes their ideas, beliefs, feelings, and habits of choice, as well as their bodily tendencies and social relations. It penetrates to the deepest layers of their soul.”

— *Dallas Willard*



Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda

“The church reformed, always being reformed.”

- **REDISCOVER**
- **RECALIBRATE**
- **RIGHT POSTURE**

Jesus is Lord

Movement and Metanoia

Word and the Spirit