Nehemiah 8



Festivals – the need for them(?)







God given festivals (the feasts). Leviticus 23

7 in total
4 in the Spring – Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Weeks
3 in the Autumn – Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Tabernacles

For three of them there were huge pilgrimage numbers, (Pentecost (Acts 2) records from where a number had travelled from). Some would stay for the next one.

Jesus attended them – his first recorded one (Luke 2) was aged 12. His parents lost him.

John 7 – this festival (Tabernacles)





A **festival** is a special day, period, or organized series of events—such as musical performances, film screenings, or cultural activities—held to celebrate a religious, seasonal, historical, or community occasion.

The word comes from the Latin *festivus*, meaning "of a feast" or "merry".

Common Types of Festivals

- **Religious and Spiritual**
- **Arts and Entertainment**
- **Seasonal and Harvest**
- **Cultural and Community**
- **Political**
- **Celebrate an anniversary of an event**



Core Purposes

- **Commemoration:** Remembering
- **Social Bonding:** Bringing people together
- **Cultural Transmission:** Passing down from one generation to the next.
- **Recreation:** Offering a break from daily routines

Spring Harvest, New Wine, Keswick, Filey, Big Church Festival, Beach Missions, Easter Bible Conferences, CreationFest, Billy Graham, Churches Together, March for Jesus





Sunday, Eucharist, Easter, Christmas, Harvest, Pentecost

We are vulnerable to - frailty, distraction, moodiness, fatigue, doubt, imposter syndrome, inadequate, good intentions, forgetful







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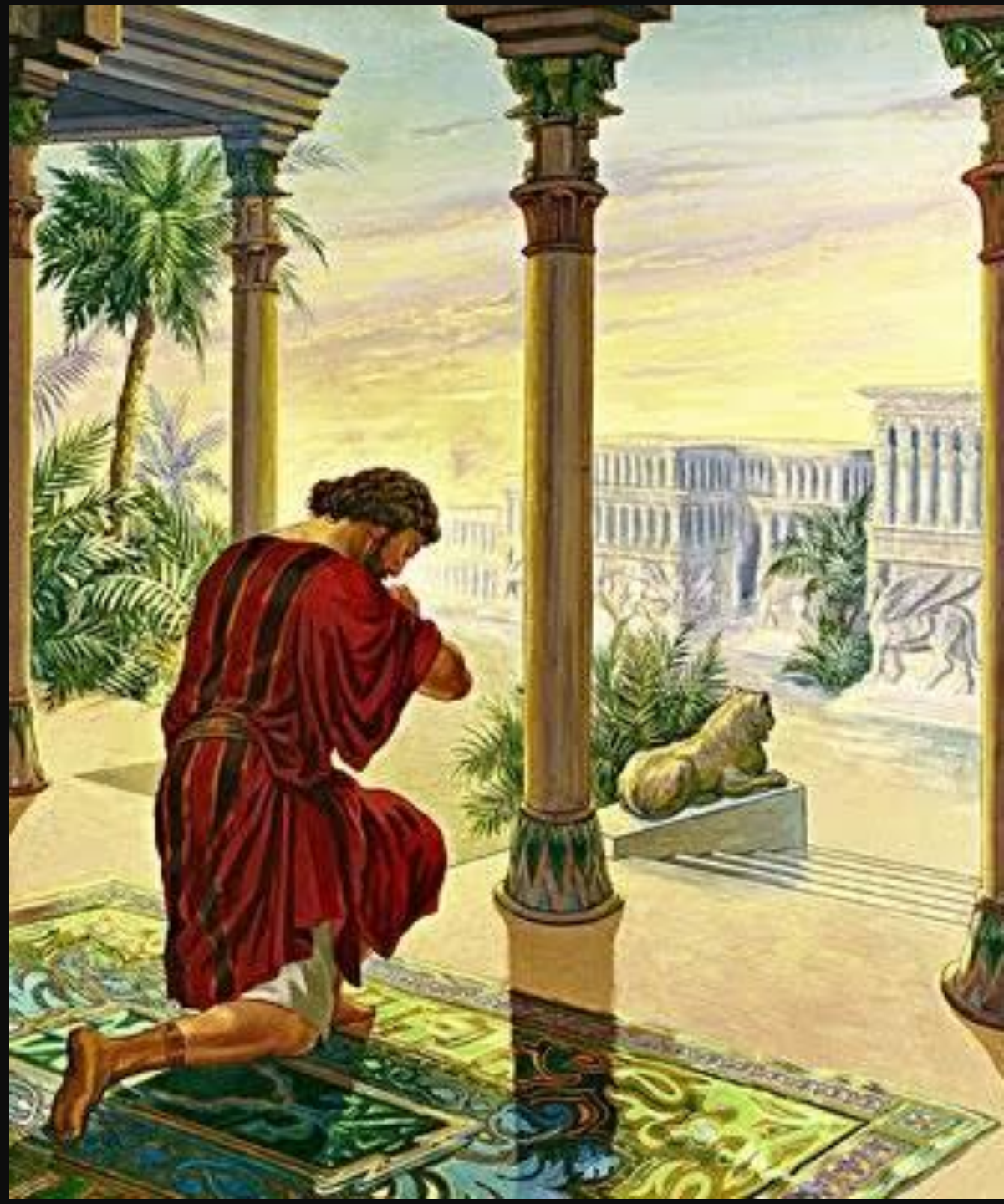
Nehemiah Chapter 8 – The Awakening

They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.
9 Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.
10 Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”
11 The Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve.”
12 Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

A God who restores and reconciles

Nehemiah 1

Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.’ They are your servants and your people, **whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.**



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“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.”

(Hebrews 10:25)

