

# A Time of Great Rejoicing

*Nehemiah 8*

After the Jerusalem wall was re-built, all the people gathered together in the plaza of the sanctuary before the Water Gate.

They spoke to Ezra who was the priest and a scribe, and asked him to bring the Book of the Torah of Moses, which **YAHWEH** had commanded to Israel.

On the first day of the seventh month, he brought the Torah before the men and women of the congregation and he read it from the morning until noon.

All the people listened to the Book of the Torah. Ezra stood on a pulpit made of wood and he opened the book for the people to see. When he opened it, all the people stood up.

Ezra blessed **YAHWEH**, the great Elohim and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. They bowed and worshiped to **YAHWEH** with their noses to the ground. They were made to understand the Torah.

Nehemiah the governor, Ezra and the Levites who taught the people, said to them, "This day is holy to **YAHWEH** your Elohim. Do not mourn or weep." The people wept when they heard the Words of the Torah. Then he said to them, "Go eat, and drink, and share with him who has nothing prepared. For this day is holy to our Master. Do not be grieved for the joy of **YAHWEH**, for He is your fortress."

The Levites were silencing all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for today is holy, and do not be grieved." So, all the people went to eat, and to drink, and to share, and to make great rejoicing, because they understood the Words of the Torah.

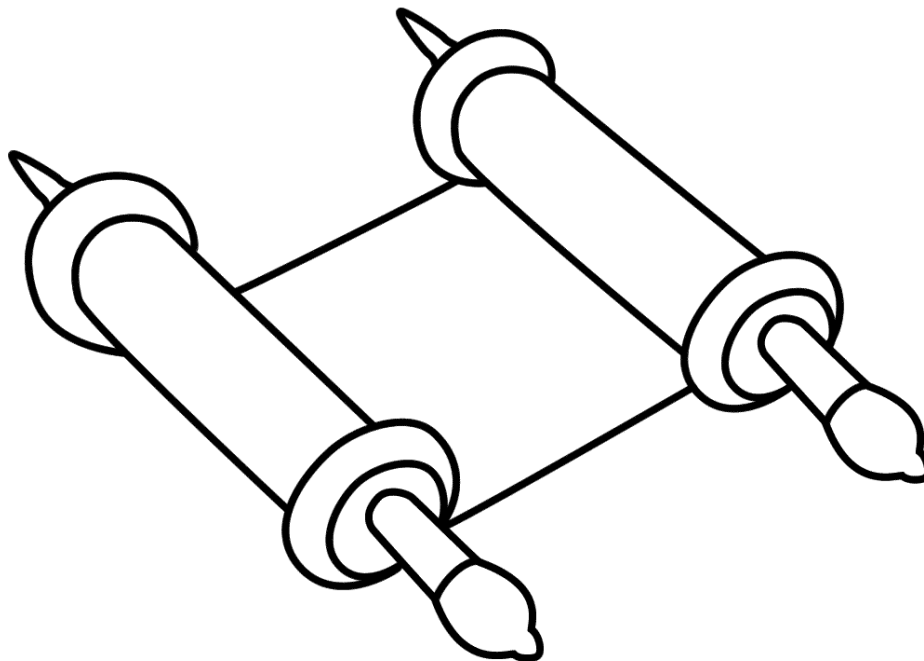
On the second day, the chief of all the people, the priests, and the Levites, went to Ezra to hear and understand the Words of the Torah. They found written in the Torah, which **YAHWEH** had commanded by Moses, that the sons of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast in the seventh month. They should tell the people in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, "Go to the mountain and bring

olive leaves and wild olive leaves, and myrtle leaves, and leaves of palm, and leaves of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written.”

So, the people went out and brought back the leaves from the trees. Each man made booths for themselves. They made them on their roofs and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of YAHWEH. They made them in the plaza of the Water Gate, and in the plaza of the Ephraim Gate.

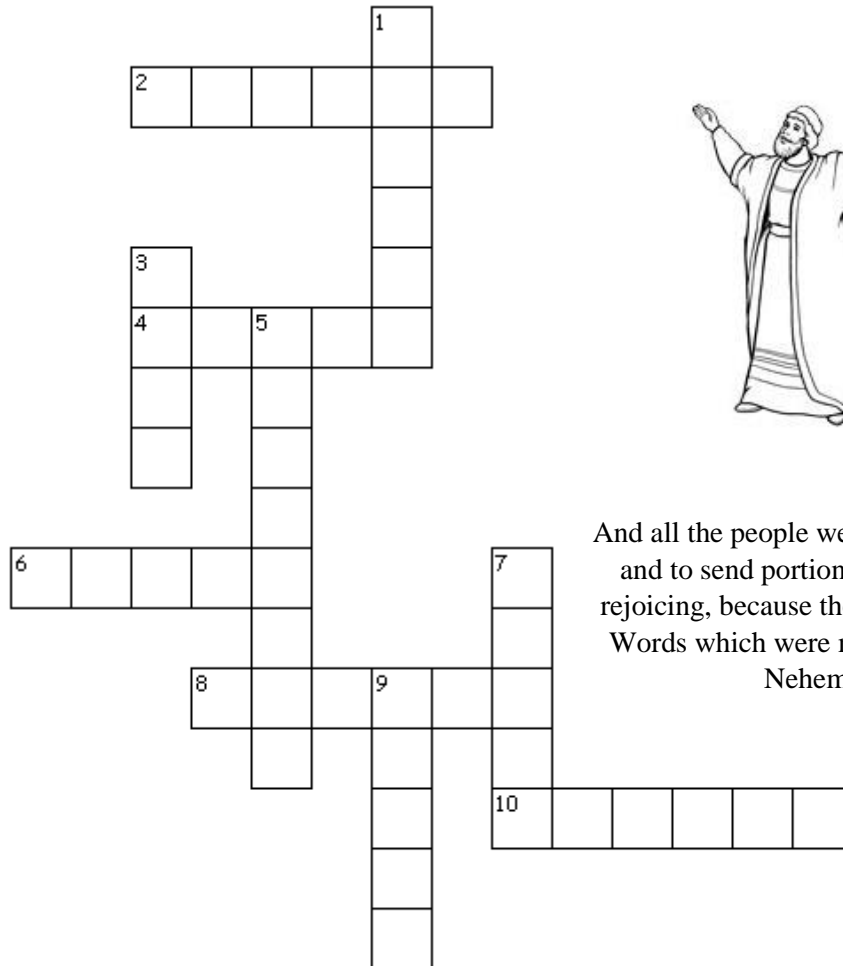
All the congregation who came out of their captivity made Sukkoths, and they sat under them. For since the days of Joshua, until that day, the sons of Israel had not done so. **There was great gladness.**

Also day by day, from the first day until the last day, Ezra read in the Book of the Torah. They performed the feast for seven days, and on the eighth day they came together according to what was written in the Torah.



# A Time of Great Rejoicing

Nehemiah 8



And all the people went to eat, and to drink,  
and to send portions, and to make great  
rejoicing, because they had understood the  
Words which were made known to them.

Nehemiah 8:12

## Across

2. Since the days of who, did the sons of Israel never celebrate Sukkot like this?
4. What did Ezra stand on to read before the congregation?
6. Which gate did all the people gather in front of?
8. What did the people make after hearing Ezra read on the second day?
10. Ezra was a priest and a \_\_\_\_\_.

## Down

1. What did Ezra stand on to read before the congregation?
3. What did the people do when they heard the words of the Torah?
5. Nehemiah was the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel.
7. The people bowed and worshiped Yahweh with \_\_\_\_\_ to the ground.
9. What did Ezra read before the congregation on the first day of the seventh month?

# A Time of Great Rejoicing

Nehemiah 8

L L N Z T J N D S I P E H H O  
X W E Y O E S E E R R I A O S  
P A F A M G T E I N O M R L R  
R T T A V I V E Z B E W O Y P  
H E L S V E S O F R O T T E E  
A R J E A T S U R R A L S V O  
I G L O J E R U S A L E M I P  
M A S L I E F H E B I R C S L  
E T X N A C I Y K B O O K M E  
H E S D X P I R O N R E V O G  
E A K Z E D O N B O O T H S H  
N Y S D P D U E G H Y W P H J

Amen

Book

Booths

Ezra

Feast

Governor

Holy

Jerusalem

Leaves

Levites

Listened

Nehemiah

People

Priest

Read

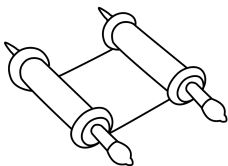
Rejoicing

Scribe

Torah

Watergate

Worshiped



And Ezra opened the book to the eyes of all people,  
for he was above all the people. And when he opened  
it, all the people stood up.

Nehemiah 8:5