A painting depicting a man with a beard and a white turban, wearing a green and gold patterned vest over a white long-sleeved shirt, standing at a wooden podium. He is holding a large, open scroll. The podium has two golden horns or trumpets on top. In the background, a large crowd of people is gathered, and a city wall with battlements is visible under a blue sky. The scene is set in a warm, sunlit environment.

Ezra Opened The Book

Neh. 8:1-9

Chronological Background

- 2100 → Abraham
- 1450 → Giving of the Law on Sinai
- 930 → following Saul, David and Solomon, the Kingdom of Israel divided.
- 722 → Israel is taken by Assyria
- 606-605 → First group (Daniel, etc.) taken to Babylon.
- 597 → Second group taken to Babylon.
- 586 → Jerusalem falls; temple of God, wall of city destroyed.
- 536 → First group returns to Jerusalem. Foundation of the temple is laid. (520-516)
- 458 → Second group, led by Ezra, the spiritual reformer, returns.
- 444 → Nehemiah returns and the walls are rebuilt.
- 432-425 → Days of Malachi

Nehemiah 8:1-8

- 1 And all the people **gathered themselves together as one man** into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to **bring the book of the law of Moses**, which the LORD had commanded to Israel.
- 2 And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and **all that could hear with understanding**, upon the first day of the seventh month.
- 3 And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate **from the morning until midday**, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of **all the people were attentive** unto the book of the law...
- 5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and **when he opened it, all the people stood up:**
- 6 **And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God.** And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and **worshipped the LORD** with their faces to the ground...
- 8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.
- 9 For **all the people wept**, when they heard the words of the law.

Observations From The Text...

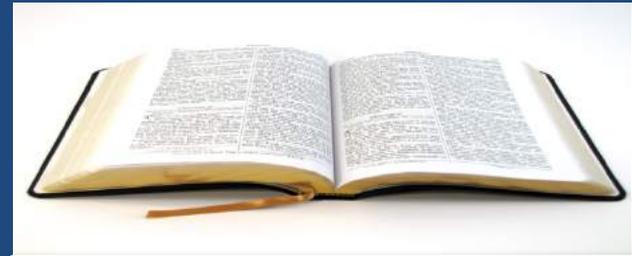
- Wonderful worship scene:
 - The people are together.
 - They want to hear God's book.
 - They listen to the reading for several hours and are eager to do so. (attentive – KJV)
 - Ezra opened the book in view of all the people.
 - All the people stood up – reverence for God and His word.
 - God is praised for His greatness.
 - They bow down and worship with their faces to the ground.
 - God's word was read, explained and understood.
 - The people wept when they heard the words of the law.

Things That Need To Be Opened...

- Eyes. (Jn. 4:35)
- Hearts. (Lk. 8:15)
- Doors of opportunity. (Col. 4:3)
- Hands to do God's work. (Deut. 15:11)
- Mouths to speak the word of God. (Acts 8:35)
- We must open the word of God. (Lk. 10:26)

Open The Book –To Learn About God

- His powerful works:
 - Creation (Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:3; Jer. 32:17)
 - Destruction (Gen. 6:7; 7:19-32; II Pet. 3:6)
 - Resurrection (Acts 2:32; Eph. 1:19-2:10)
 - Deut. 6:20-25; Judges 2:7-10; Ps. 77:12)
- His holy character. (Rom. 2:4-5; 11:22)
- His eternal purpose. (Eph. 3:10-11)
- His perfect law. (Ps. 19:7; Js. 2:12; 1:25)
- His great love. (Jn. 3:16)
- His wonderful grace. (Eph. 2:8-10)
- His just wrath. (Rom. 1:18)
- His terms of forgiveness. (Heb. 5:8-9)
- His final judgment. (II Cor. 5:10)



7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; (II Thess. 1:7-9)