

## BIBLICAL BENCHMARKS

### *Nehemiah 8:1-12*

The Bible provides a benchmark for what our services should look like in the OT, not in the temple services in which priests made animal sacrifices, but in a service that scholars believed shaped the Jewish \_\_\_\_\_  
In Nehemiah 8 we find \_\_\_\_\_ elements that provide a Scriptural minimum for God's people meeting to worship:

I. \_\_\_\_\_

This passage repeatedly speaks of "all the people" which includes women and \_\_\_\_\_ (v.2)

A. "All the People" Refers to \_\_\_\_\_ People

- 1) Many churches have departed from the Biblical benchmark and designed services for \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Benchmark: The church gathers for edification and worship; the church scatters for \_\_\_\_\_

B. The Congregation Who Participated Was \_\_\_\_\_ Appropriate

According to the last phrase in verse 3, all the people were all \_\_\_\_\_ to the exposition of God's Word

II. \_\_\_\_\_

A. The Meaning of the Word

- 1) NKJV translates "platform," the old KJV translates "pulpit"; it may refer to what \_\_\_\_\_ men stood on
- 2) But the word is also translated \_\_\_\_\_ 50 times in the OT and may refer to a pulpit for the scroll

B. The Purpose of What They Constructed

- 1) Whatever it was, it was constructed so all could hear and pay attention to the \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Some churches today are stepping back from this benchmark, filling services with \_\_\_\_\_

III. \_\_\_\_\_

In this passage, worship & preaching are in a symbiotic relationship—mutually \_\_\_\_\_ on each other

A. Worship Prepares Hearts for \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) V.5 says that Ezra opened the scroll, but before he read, he led the people in \_\_\_\_\_ (v.6)
- 2) They worshipped by bowing: \_\_\_\_\_ is the appropriate preparation for responding to the Word

B. Preaching Prepares Hearts for \_\_\_\_\_

2 effects of Ezra's preaching (vv.9-12): mourning over sin and \_\_\_\_\_ of what God had done

IV. \_\_\_\_\_

Not certain how Ezra and the 13 \_\_\_\_\_ mentioned in v.7 interacted with the people who stood to hear "Read distinctly" in v.8 can refer to translating, but can also mean that Ezra broke his reading into \_\_\_\_\_

A. Translating or \_\_\_\_\_ the Passage

Preaching must ensure that we understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible: God's words are paramount

B. Explaining the Historical and Cultural \_\_\_\_\_ of the Passage

C. Interpreting the Passage according to God's \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning

When preaching any passage, the preacher must answer 1 question: what meaning did \_\_\_\_\_ intend?

D. \_\_\_\_\_ the Passage to Our Historical and Cultural Context