

Sunday Capsule:

**HOW CAN WE BE SURE THE BIBLE, this BOOK is ACURRATE?  
Can we really STAND together in believing what it says?  
Some stuff for you to know while making a ready defense should  
YOU be questioned about the Bible's authenticity!  
(This is cool information to shelf! )**

### **Nehemiah 8:1-12**

All the people assembled with a unified purpose at the square just inside the Water Gate. **They asked Ezra** the scribe to **bring out the Book of the Law of Moses**, which the LORD had given for Israel to obey. So on October 8 Ezra the priest brought the Book of the Law before the assembly, which included the men and women and all the children old enough to understand. He faced the square just inside the Water Gate from early morning until noon and read aloud to everyone who could understand. **All the people listened closely** to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform that had been made for the occasion. To his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah. To his left stood Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam. Ezra stood on the platform in full view of all the people. When they saw him open the book, they all rose to their feet. Then Ezra praised the LORD, the great God, and all the people chanted, "Amen! Amen!" as they lifted their hands. Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. **The Levites**—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and Pelaiah—**then instructed the people in the Law while everyone remained in their places**. They read from the Book of the Law of God and **clearly explained the meaning** of what was being read, **helping the people understand each passage**. Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were interpreting for the people said to them, "Don't mourn or weep on such a day as this! For today is a sacred day before the LORD your God." For the people had all been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. And Nehemiah continued, "**Go and celebrate** with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!" And the Levites, too, quieted the people, telling them, "Hush! Don't weep! For this is a sacred day." So the people went away to eat and drink at a festive meal, to share gifts of food, and to **celebrate with great joy because they had heard God's words and understood them**.

We find Ezra here was invited to be the reader of the Book of the Laws of God to the people as they had a REASON to come together! The temple was built, the walls up, things were looking groovy! In fact they had a PARTICULAR reason to STAND together! Notice if you will that in the beginning of Ezra's readying to read from off this platform he decides to bring up 13 men to STAND with him on this platform.

**(Hand's up)** How many here have friends willing to STAND with you when you present things from the Word of God? When you go to a friend who you believe is backsliding or struggling, and you go in love not to condemn them but to "offer help" to "stand next to them" through their trials, and help them to "stand on the Words that come from God?"  
**Who would you say would go with you**  
and be 'able' to share not just opinions but helpful scriptures from God's word?  
Its a good thing to find such people and have them in your life!

Anyone know how many generations had passed since the MOSES originally wrote the Book of the Law which Ezra in this chapter decides to read from? From the time Moses wrote it down to

the time Ezra here was reading it lets just say MANY years perhaps several hundred years, which is much more than a few! For sure it was over 400 years *before* Christ arrives... **So, how could these people put their trust in a BOOK that could be filled with -new opinions- additional information- and or private interpretations?** Chapter 8 : Deals with HOW we can take a STAND TODAY on the same words read to them way back in Nehemiah's time, lets look at evidence YOU can believe and share with those challenging your belief in the Word of God!

### **Many ask this question:**

Is this same BIBLE authentic and accurate in telling us the truth of matters for today and about what happened so many yesterday ago's ? *As believers* we have "faith" that the bible was all inspired by the Holy Spirit, but how can we prove this to an un-believer that the Bible carries weight outside of our simply saying, "Its true cause the bible itself tells me so !"

Seriously, why would an un-believer buy into that?

## **Lets review the power of AUTHENTICITY! ( In its variety's)**

Lets review authenticity, which I think will give us a reason to celebrate as the people in Nehemiah's time got to do! 1st off ) vs 7, *This verse* ;lists names and a slew of Levite's. This portion of scripture tells us that the priests were disbursed amongst the people --- WHY? Vs 8 " They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it CLEAR, and giving the MEANING so that the people could UNDERSTAND what was being read. " This is how generations of those from the Jewish culture were taught in order to keep CLEAR records of what was written down and shared audibly one to another so that it could be *clearly* understood. **Ezra would read passages then pause so that those above mentioned Levite's stationed through out the crowd could ask the listeners, "did you understand what was just read?"** Those being taught were taught without it being flippant information. These Levites were threaded through a crowd of over 50,000 people and the people were given opportunities to ask questions, receive personal clarifications, *nothing* was to be changed or re-interpreted! That's bringing God's words *into your space*..where you stand or sit!

### **IS IT BIBLICAL TO ASK QUESTIONS TODAY IN THE CHURCH SERVICES?**

We find that historical accounts are sealed through RELATIONSHIPS that can be trusted. Beginning with Eye-witness accounts. That's PURE Jewish historical custom. So ,the READING of the LAW and asking and answering of questions caused the people to UNDERSTAND the LAW. It could be clarified. ITS why TODAY in this church congregation we give YOU an opportunity to ask questions, or make comments. **YES! Its entirely biblical to do this!**

## **STILL THE UNBELIEVER USES CHILD LIKE METHODOLOGY to discredit the Bible: THE TELEPHONE GAME Question!**

**THE TELEPHONE GAME, we all know un-believers challenge the authenticity of the Bible with this children's game:**

In the telephone game. . ONE person whispered something to the person next to him and then it gets passed round until it comes back to the original person. Usually by the time the whisper gets back to the original person its been totally exaggerated and changed. However, that is a game, in the Jewish culture if you were being whispered something you would be asked to repeat it, question it, come to understand its meaning and have a RELATIONSHIP with the one whispering! For example: *My dad* has told me how he met my mom, and he's quite clear on the fact that he saw **beautiful long legs coming down** a set of church basement steps **which were attached to a glorious red** dress with a smiling face bearing **fire engine red lipstick!** HIS account over the years has not changed. I now can share that story quite clearly without having to distort the facts in confidence simply because I have a "relationship" with my father who can TELL me, and remind me exactly how he met her. I can go back and ask him to tell me the story AGAIN and again! The telephone game is just that a child's game. BUT the passing on of vital information is not child's play to those who want YOU and I to have a relationship with thus sharing accurately what we want each other to know. My dad was an eye-witness in seeing my mother for the first time. I now can share this same story with my son and daughter, and they can ACCURATELY share it with their children should they wish to give some family history. There is NO reason for them to change the truth, good bad or indifferent, its still the truth!

**So far we know that GODS words were written down and also spoken. They were spoken repeatedly DISTINCTIVELY, CLEARLY, and *without* additions or changes made because those telling and passing on the information *did so through strong relationships* with those whom passed on the stories, and scriptures. This should be reassuring in itself..however.....**

## **LETS PUT THE BIBLE TO THE TEST from the identical criteria the world uses for what our world calls in fact: WORLD HISTORY.**

**Did this or didn't it really happen?! Did Hitler kill millions of Jews? Did a famous artist named Michael Angelo really paint an entire ceiling in a church in Italy? Who was China's most feared ruler and why was he feared?**

**IN OUR STANDING TOGETHER TODAY:**

**THE BIBLE SHOULD BE HISTORICALLY TESTED BY THE SAME CRITERIA WE USE TODAY FOR ALL WORLD HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS!** Much of world history we have is based on: 1) the number of surviving manuscripts and 2) sources to consult, including written down accounts from eye witnesses. 3) hard evidence that can be pieced together, from archives, physical fragments of written down accounts, archeological evidence etc.

Let's CHECK out some of our WORLD HISTORY: In testing WORLD HISTORY ACCURACY WE find ourselves believing what has happened in times past WITH LESS EVIDENCE and without EYE WITNESS' written down accounts!

**Caesar Gallic Wars** - Earliest WRITTEN copy's of those wars was 900 years later, AFTER those wars supposedly took place, today only 10 copies providing us with "evidence" that they in fact took place! *Yet we believe they happened with only 10 copies !*

**Queen Cleopatra** -- 800 years after she lived we find her story finally written down, which after it was written down became "History" Only 2 fragmented copies survive. Even less information, we have about this Queen, but we have whole movies about her life! Where the actual information is fleeting. Did she live, probably, but is the story about her actually true?

**Plato's historical accounts** - We have a span of 1200 years before his accounts were written down. 7 copies today still in existence ! So did or didn't all these people live and impacted World history in some way shape or form? You decide...

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Next lets look at :

## **Supernatural accounts regarding religious leaders historically pitted against each other:**

Interesting to note these facts: Other books claim DIVINE inspiration from GOD, such as the **Koran**, the **Book of Mormon**, and parts of the **Hindu Veda**, but none contain predictive prophecy. **Mohammed** has no prophecies of his coming before his birth, neither does any other religious culture. Not from EGYPT to CHINA , INDIA, ASSYRIA, GREECE or ROME.. not one culture has *had prophetic words* given to them that came TRUE as ALL of the WRITTEN DOWN ACCOUNTS of the JEWISH HISTORY has had. **FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT ALONE we have :**

5,656 ORIGINAL manuscripts of the NEW TEST which still survive today.  
Some in *partiality* are as CLOSE as the 2nd century.

The **Dead Sea scrolls** discovered in 1947 by a shepherd boy chasing down a goat, he tossed a stone into a hole inside a cliff and heard shattering noise of a clay jar. SEVERAL clay jars lay there preserved in time, dating back 1900 years sharing accounts of GODS providential care. Amongst the 800 manuscripts, the entire book of Isaiah survived *its accuracy was confirmed HOW??* it was like reading from the BIBLE we have in our hands TODAY!

## **THE STORY ALONE OF ONE man, JESUS CHRIST**

Had over 24,000 written accounts following after his life, death and resurrection!  
**The most recorded records reproduced in HISTORY.** . and yet people doubt JESUS did what he did, was who he claimed to be, died and rose again. . He impacted the WORLD, so much so that we now measure time by him. BC ( Before Christ ) and AD ( After Death ) .. bit still many doubt he was who he claimed to be... but they will believe Cleopatra's story!

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# **TOGETHER we too can STAND UP, and BELIEVE WHAT THIS BOOK SAYS**

## **Like those of Nehemiah's time:**

The people heard about life and death  
Tragedy and Victory  
What to do, what to look out for and what to avoid,  
They read about changes, supernatural power and came to have  
CLARITY along with UNDERSTANDING thanks to those  
around them who understand HOW to listen to God's Word and apply it to their lives!

## **FINALLY**

**Let's not sit around an mope about what's NOT going right, let's STAND UP AND CELEBRATE that at least we have GOD's History Book and Love Letters in our lives and that's RIGHT on! Together with Christ we are making history! Like they did in verse 10 "Nehemiah said, GO and ENJOY choice foods and sweet drinks and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord, do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!"**

**THEY could stand up and REJOICE! THIS Bible book, shares with us WHO GOD REALLY IS. . He has the power to change the world, and he does so today by changing ONE PERSON'S WORLD AT A TIME!**

**Thank you Christ Jesus, thank you Father God,  
Thank you Holy Spirit!**

Therefore yes, you can challenge those who challenge you.

This **Bible is a book TODAY you can stand on.**

CAN we get a few of you to STAND up together or alone and simply shout, "AMEN!!"