

# Ministry & The Work of God: 12

## An Anointed Ministry

### **Nehemiah 8-10**

At the end of chapter 8, the people of God celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

- This feast had not been observed in this fashion in Israel since the days of Joshua (Nehemiah 8.17) – that's about 1000 years!

### **What Is the Feast of Tabernacles?**

- one of the three great feasts in the Jewish year at which every male was commanded to observe
- also known as 'Feast of Booths' and 'Feast of Ingathering'
- held at the end of the agricultural year when all the harvest had been gathered in
- kept for seven days – from 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> day of the seventh month
- during the seven days of the feast, the people dwelt in tabernacles/booths
- the next day, the eighth day, was a solemn assembly - 'the great day of the feast' as mentioned in John 7.37
- Although not commanded in the Law - after the exile a ceremony of water-pouring was observed. This was an offering to give thanks to God for the rain that produced fruitful harvests.

Verse 17 does not necessarily mean that the feast was not observed in all that time.

- Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, David and others would not have tolerated such a flagrant breach of the commandment of God.
- Some commentators suggest that it was the construction of booths that was not observed during this time period
- There are references to the Feast of Tabernacles during this time period in the Bible:
  - 1 Kings 8.2, 65
  - 2 Chronicles 5.3
  - 2 Chronicles 7.9
  - Ezra 3.4
- was probably not observed during the time of captivity
- Booths were constructed at times, but maybe not all the time.
- often it was just the elders, heads of tribes and chief fathers that constructed booths

the first few words are key - "so the whole assembly.." - this seems to make sense with the other references to the feast.

### **Any Minister/Ministry Must Be Anointed.**

John 7.37-39

Jesus stood up on the last day, that great day of the feast (Tabernacles), at that solemn assembly and said -

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.. out of his heart will flow rivers of living water”

- He spoke this concerning the Holy Spirit which was yet to be given.
- No minister under the Old Covenant began their work without being anointed.
- no minister today can do without the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Ministry flows out of the heart of man –

- it is not a work of our intellect or ability
- it is an extension of the work of God and ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- Ministry is birthed in the spirit (heart) of man and flows out to others
- Zechariah 4.6 declares it's not by any might or power of man but “by My Spirit says the Lord”

Acts 1.8

- disciples were entrusted with ministry
- instructed to wait for the anointing of the Holy Spirit

Lessons:

1. Fulfill your ministry completely - don't leave out anything that God has commanded you.
2. Depend on the anointing of the Holy Spirit