

# Nehemiah 7:5-8:18 – Rebuilt through the Word

## 尼希米記 7:5-8:18 – 藉著神的話語重建

Reading 閱讀 7:5-7, 8:1-18. John Lau 劉特正. 13 Nov 2022 年 11 月 13 日

About five hundred years before the Saviour of the world was to be born into a Jewish family of Mary and Joseph. The nation of Israel was still in exile under a foreign ruler. The city God had provided for His people to live in is in terrible condition.

救世主出生在一個由瑪利亞和約瑟組成的猶太家庭之前的大約五百年。以色列仍然被流放在外國統治者的統治下。神為祂的百姓提供居住的城市的狀況很糟糕。

So God raised leaders to rebuild the city of Jerusalem and provide a place and a community where the Saviour would be born. He is again working in His world to ensure the redemptive story continues. That is the context behind the book of Nehemiah that we have been looking into during this season.

因此，上帝興起領袖去重建耶路撒冷城，並提供一個地方和一個社群讓救世主出生。祂再次在祂的世界裡工作，以確保救贖的故事繼續下去。這就是我們在這段期間在研究的《尼希米記》的背景。

Chapters 1 to 7 tell us about the external physical rebuilding of the wall. Chapter 8 onward to the end of the book is the spiritual inward rebuilding of the community of people of God. Today we have come to the junction between these two rebuildings.

第 1 到 7 章告訴我們關於城牆外在的實物重建。第 8 章一直到本書的結尾是神的百姓的社群的屬靈內在重建。今天我們來到了這兩個重建的交匯處。

With the completion of the building of the physical wall, attention turns to building up the people of God. Their biological heritage is evident as the long list of names in chapter 7 describes their lineage from Abraham. Their spiritual heritage emerges as they are taught God's Word from chapter 8.

隨著城牆的建造完成，注意力轉向建造神的百姓。第 7 章中一長串的名字顯明地描述了他們來自亞伯拉罕的血統的遺傳。他們從第 8 章學習上帝的話語時，他們的屬靈傳統也漸漸顯明。

The focus of Nehemiah, and the whole Bible, is not on the people or the world that God created but on the Creator, God, our Heavenly Father, himself. God is behind every Word written in the sixty-six Old and New Testament books that form the Bible. God is the author and Creator. He intervenes in human history to ensure His plan comes to fruition.

《尼希米記》和整本聖經的焦點不是上帝創造的人或世界，而是創造者，上帝，我們的天父，祂自己。上帝是構成聖經的六十六卷舊約和新約書卷中每一個字的主導。上帝是一切的創造者。祂介入人類歷史，以確保祂的計劃得以實現。

God is always preparing for Himself, a people of His own. He rebuilds them through His Words to be a light to the world to show His brilliance and grace. We will look at the preparation and rebuilding through God's Word today.

上帝總是在為自己預備屬於自己的百姓。祂通過祂的話語重建它們，成為世界的光，展示祂的光輝和恩典。今天我們將看看通過上帝的話語進行的準備和重建。

## 1. The Preparation 準備

Even though the book of Nehemiah is certainly about God preparing for Himself a community of His people, there is something unique about this book because there is no record of God speaking directly to any of the characters in the book. At the very beginning, there is only a short recollection of God's speech.

儘管《尼希米記》肯定是關於上帝為自己準備一個屬祂的百姓的社群，但這本書有一些獨特之處，因為沒有記錄上帝直接對書中的任何人物說話。只有一開始時對神的話語很短的回憶。

When we read the book of Nehemiah, we should remember that God is the main character even though He is not speaking directly. He is the One that set everything into motion.

當我們讀《尼希米記》時，我們應該記住儘管神沒有直接說話祂才是主角。祂是使一切運轉起來的那一位。

We can see one example of how God works within people to achieve His goal in verses 4-5 of chapter 7. Nehemiah recorded,

我們可以在第 7 章 4-5 節看到上帝如何在人裡面工作以實現他的目標的一個例子。尼希米記述：

*4 Now the city was large and spacious, but there were few people in it, and the houses had not yet been rebuilt. 5 So my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles, the officials and the common people for registration by families.*

4 城又寬又大，城中的百姓卻稀少，房屋也還沒有建造。5 我的上帝感動我的心，我就召集貴族、官長和百姓，要登記家譜。

God put into Nehemiah's heart to assemble the people. People's heart is God's working field. Is your heart ready for God's work? God works in the heart of people like Nehemiah and Ezra in the Old Testament. Today, He is working in our hearts through His Word too.

上帝感動尼希米的心去召集眾人。人心是神的工場。你的心準備好接受神的工作了嗎？上帝在舊約中的尼希米和以斯拉等人的心中工作。今天，他也通過他的話語在我們心中工作。

God's Word is living and active, penetrates our hearts and is influential in building His people. From chapter 8 onwards, we will see the centrality of God's Word amongst His pilgrim people, bringing about necessary changes to prepare them. When we read parts of the Bible that do not record God speaking directly, like Nehemiah, we should pay extra attention to avoid missing some fundamental principles in how God prepares for His work.

上帝的話語是活潑有功效的，都能刺入、剖開，我們心中的思念和主意，並在建設祂的百姓方面具有影響力。從第 8 章開始，我們將看到上帝的話語在敬拜他的人中的中心地位，帶來必要的改變來準備他們。當我們閱讀聖經中像《尼希米記》這樣沒有記錄神直接說話的書時，我們應該特別注意，避免錯過神為他的工作準備的一些基本原則。

One of the principles I will draw your attention to will make me very unpopular in the current day and age. What I am referring to is that **there must be a distinction between who is and who is not**

**part of God's family**. There needs to be a sense of exclusivity before we can have a real sense of belonging within a true community of God's people.

我要提出希望您注意的一項原則將使我在當今時代非常不受歡迎。我指的是**必須區分誰是和誰不是上帝的家的成員**。我們需要有一種排外感，才能在真正的上帝的百姓社群中擁有真正的歸屬感。

Knowing who truly belongs and who is just an attendee is very important to community formation. There must be a clear commitment for God's people and community to impact where God has placed them. For them is Jerusalem. For us is Chatswood in the city of Willoughby.

知道誰是真正屬於神，誰只是參與者，對於社群的形成非常重要。上帝的百姓和社群必須有明確的承諾，以影響上帝放置他們的地方。對他們來說就是耶路撒冷。對我們來說是威洛比市的卓士活。

In Chapter 7, there is a long list of names of those that can legitimately claim their places within the community of God's people. However, a group in the list can not show their family descended from Israel. Some names should not surprise us because of what they did up to this point in the book.

在第7章中，有一長串可以證明他們的父系家族和後裔是否屬於上帝百姓的社群的名單。但是，列表中的一組不能證明他們的家庭是以色列的後裔。有些名字因為他們在本書中到目前為止所做的事情不應該會讓我們感到驚訝。

***61 The following came up from the towns of Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Kerub, Addon and Immer, but they could not show that their families were descended from Israel: the descendants of Delaiah, Tobiah and Nekoda.***

**61 從特米拉、特哈薩、基綠、亞頓、音麥上來，不能證明他們的父系家族和後裔是否屬以色列的如下：62 第萊雅的子孫、多比雅的子孫、尼哥大的子孫**

Tobiah is one of the troublemakers that appeared many times during the rebuilding work. During last week's sermon, Steve pointed out that even though his name means *God is good*, Tobiah did not believe the meaning of his name and set on discrediting God and opposing His works.

多比雅是重建工作中多次出現的麻煩製造者之一。在上週的講道中，主任牧師指出，儘管他的名字意味著上帝是好的，但多比雅並不相信他名字的含義，並開始詆毀上帝並反對祂的工作。

***64 These searched for their family records, but they could not find them and so were excluded from the priesthood as unclean. 65 The governor, therefore, ordered them not to eat any of the most sacred food until there should be a priest ministering with the Urim and Thummim.***

**64 這些人在族譜之中尋查自己的譜系，卻尋不著，因此算為不潔，不得作祭司。65 省長對他們說，不可吃至聖的物，直到有會用烏陵和土明的祭司興起來。**

We can all agree that not allowing those who do not genuinely have the good of people in their hearts to hold leadership positions is crucial. There are many examples of how things have gone badly in the Bible and human history because the exclusion was not applied. You only need to look at your workplace or your friends and relatives to see the damage a self-centred self-praising person would make, let alone whether that person is leading.

我們都可以同意，不允許那些內心深處沒有真正為人著想的人擔任領導職務是至關重要的。在聖經和人類歷史上有很多例子說明事情是如何因為沒有應用排除法而變得糟糕的。你只需要看看你的工作場所或你的朋友和親戚，就能看到一個以自我為中心、自我表揚的人會造成的傷害，更不用說這個人是否領導了。

And so they are excluded from the priesthood, the position of spiritual leaders, and from enjoying the privilege entitled. And it must be clear that they are not excluded from the community but are banned from holding leadership positions until God provides a suitable way to identify them adequately.

因此，他們被排除在聖職、屬靈領袖的職位之外，也無法享受應得的特權。必須清楚的是，他們並沒有被排除在社群之外，而是被禁止擔任領導職務，直到上帝提供適當的方式來充分識別他們。

God is rebuilding a community that will represent Him to the world, and only those ready to represent His reign are qualified to serve and lead His people spiritually. God's people need to be identifiable, stand up to be counted and are committed to God and his work in Nehemiah's time, even more so for us today. If we are to become a functioning, unified community that would impact the world and transform the community around us, that is the only way.

上帝正在重建一個將在世界上代表祂的社群，只有那些準備好代表祂的統治的人才資格在屬靈事工上服務和領導祂的百姓。在尼希米時代，上帝的百姓必須是可辨認的，經得起考驗，並委身於上帝和祂的工作，今天對我們來說更是如此。如果我們要成為一個運作良好、統一的社群，將影響世界並改變我們周圍的社群，這是唯一的途徑。

It is much more difficult now than in Nehemiah's time to call on people to examine themselves and the person they follow. People stop holding to an objective truth of *right or wrong* or *good or evil*. Anything that feels discriminatory or exclusive must be wrong. We should not be intervening in other's life. Everyone should be permitted to do what feels right to them.

現在比尼希米時代更難呼籲人們審視自己和他們追隨的人。人們不再堅持對錯或善惡的客觀真理。任何感覺歧視或排斥的東西都一定是錯誤的。我們不應該干涉別人的生活。每個人都應該被允許做他們認為正確的事情。

How do we be sure whether we are God's people, especially when some churches say everyone should be encouraged to be *their* kind of Christian based on their feelings? How can we be sure we are growing in our faith as a disciple of God? Jesus said to the Jews who believed him in John 8:31,

我們如何確定我們是否是上帝的百姓，尤其是當一些教會說應該鼓勵每個人根據自己的感受成為他們自己那樣的基督徒時？作為上帝的門徒，我們如何確定自己在信上成長？耶穌對在《約翰福音》8:31中對信他的猶太人說：

***If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.***

**你們若繼續遵守我的道，就真是我的門徒了。你們將認識真理，真理會使你們自由。**

One of the essential measurements we can use is God's Word, His teaching and His truth. Nehemiah could discern the scheme of his oppositions because he knows God's Word. He lives with reverence towards God and a healthy sense of fear because he knows God's Word. He often stops and ponders on God's Word.

我們可以使用的基本衡量標準之一是上帝的話語、祂的教導和祂的真理。尼希米可以分辨出反對他的人的計謀，因為他認識上帝的話語。他活在對上帝的敬畏和健康的恐懼中，因為他熟識上帝的話語。他經常停下來思考上帝的話語。

Some other helpful questions would be; Who are you living for or serving with your life? What is the treasure of your life? Are you treasuring Jesus and adoring Him together with other disciples? Or is something else getting most of your attention? Do you worship God corporately in gatherings and personally in devotional reading His Words? Are you part of a community that builds disciple relations and serves others with their life?

其他一些有用的問題是；你是為誰而活或為誰服務？你人生的寶藏是什麼？你是否珍愛耶穌並與其他門徒一起崇拜祂？或者是其他什麼吸引著你大部分的注意力？你是否在聚會中集體敬拜上帝，並在靈修中親自閱讀祂的話語？你是在一個建立門徒關係並為他人服務的社群中的一員嗎？

God is rebuilding the community of His people, and it is vital to distinguish who truly belongs to Him to ensure that His name and His brilliant work of salvation reveal to all nations. As preparation, we need to note those *not* wholeheartedly contributing to the rebuilding work of God to ensure their bad influence will not hinder other people's growth.

上帝正在重建祂百姓的社群，重要的是要分辨誰是真正屬於祂的，以確保祂的名字和祂輝煌的救贖工作向所有國家顯示。作為準備，我們需要注意那些沒有全心全意為上帝的重建工作做出貢獻的人，以確保他們的不良影響不會阻礙其他人的成長。

## 2. Rebuild through the Word 藉著神的話語重建

### a. With Reverent 帶著虔誠

The majestic God reveals all necessary for life and salvation in His Word. It is how he builds his people and church. Our hearts are where God is at work every day. Your attitude towards God's Word is a good indicator of what is happening within you.

威嚴的上帝在他的話語中揭示了生命和救恩所必需的一切。這就是他建立他的百姓和教會的方式。我們的心是上帝每天工作的地方。你對上帝話語的態度是在你內心中發生的事情的一個很好的指標。

The people in Nehemiah's time demonstrated an eagerness to hear God's Word in 8:1-2. After they have settled into the city,

尼希米時代的人，在 8:1-2 中，在進城後表現出渴望聆聽神的話語。

*1 all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel. 2 So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand.*

1 那時，眾百姓如同一人聚集在水門前的廣場，請以斯拉文士將耶和華吩咐以色列的摩西的律法書帶來。2 七月初一，以斯拉祭司將律法書帶到聽了能明白的男女會眾面前。

On that day, all the people listened attentively to the Book of Law from daybreak till noon. Teenagers and younger kids, too, all who can understand. They listened with reverence. They built a wooden platform to exalt God's Word.

那一天，從黎明到中午，所有人都在認真地聽著律法書。青少年和年幼的孩子也是如此，所有人能明白的男女會眾都在。他們虔誠地側耳而聽。他們特製了一個木平台來高舉上帝的話語。

Verses 5 and 6 say the people praised and worshipped God at the opening of God's Word. Reading the Bible, Words of the great God, is a form of worship. Sadly, many of us only worship God on Sunday in a building and do not worship by getting into God's Word. Reading the Bible has become something they must do to ensure God is pleased with them. They would try very hard to do it every day, often at the end of the day, just before they went to sleep.

第5和6節說人們在神的話語展開時讚美和敬拜神。閱讀聖經，偉大的上帝的話，是一種敬拜形式。可悲的是，我們中的許多人只在星期天在建築物中敬拜上帝，而不是通過深入上帝的話語來敬拜。閱讀聖經已成為他們以確保上帝喜悅他們必須做的事情。他們每天都會非常努力地這樣做，通常是在一天結束時，就在他們睡覺之前。

The attitude of the people gathered at Nehemiah's time is not like that. They want to understand what is being read. So they break into small groups to reread God's Word allowing the leaders to make it clear to them in verses 7 - 8. Reverent, awe, and worship flowed through the assembly as they read and got to understand God's Word. Is that what you are experiencing with God's Word while reading on your own during the week or sitting at church on Sunday?

尼希米時代聚集的人的態度並非如此。他們想了解正在閱讀的內容。因此，他們分成小組重讀上帝的話語，讓領袖在第7至8節中向他們說明清楚。當他們閱讀並理解上帝的話語時，虔誠、敬畏和敬拜在聚會中流淌。這是你在一週中自己閱讀或週日坐在教堂時對神的話語所有的經歷嗎？

### **b. With Deep Satisfaction. 深感滿意。**

What feeling do you usually have towards the Word of God? What weight does the Word bring to bear on you?

你通常對神的話語有什麼感覺？神的話語對你有什麼影響？

The end of verse 9 is not far from reality as our typical response to the Word of God. ***“For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.”*** They can be tears of joy as we realise the depth of God's love for us. But they are often tears of conviction as we recognise the distance between our way of living and our commitment to God's Word.

第9節的結尾作為我們對神話語的典型回應離現實並不遠。**「眾百姓聽見律法書上的話都哭了。」**當我們意識到上帝對我們的愛有多深時，它們可能是喜悅的淚水。但當我們認識到我們的生活方式和我們對上帝話語的承諾之間的距離時，它們往往是因罪而流的淚水。

The people in Nehemiah's time wept with grief because they were convicted. In the New Testament, just after Jesus's resurrection and ascension, the people of God gathered and heard Peter preach about Jesus's life, death and resurrection. They were also convicted.

尼希米時代的人因罪惡感而悲痛欲絕。在新約中，就在耶穌復活升天之後，上帝的百姓聚集在一起，聽彼得傳講耶穌的生、死和復活時他們也有同樣的感覺。

**37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”**

37 眾人聽見這話，覺得扎心，就對彼得和其餘的使徒說：「諸位弟兄，我們該怎樣做呢？」

The people in Acts respond better because their conviction makes them willing to take action. However, Nehemiah and the leaders say to the people in verses 9-11,

《使徒行傳》中的人們反應更好，因為他們的罪惡感使他們願意採取行動。然而，尼希米和領袖們在第 9-11 節對人們說，

**“This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep.”... “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”... “Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve.”**

「今日是耶和華—你們上帝的聖日，不要悲哀，也不要哭泣。」...「你們去吃肥美的，喝甘甜的，有不能預備的就分給他，因為今日是我們主的聖日。你們不要憂愁，因靠耶和華而得的喜樂是你們的力量。」...「安靜，因今日是聖日，不要憂愁。」

They repeated three times, “this day is holy,” which sounds like they are telling them to have a holiday. How would that be appropriate when someone is convicted of their sin?

他們重複了三遍，「今日是聖日」，聽起來像是在告訴他們去放假。當某人有罪惡感時，這怎麼合適？

**It is!** Because this day is holy to the Lord. God wants us to be convicted of our sins but does not want us to stay in our sins. They should grieve no more because the joy of the Lord is their strength. In other words: *Don't let your tears be your strength. Don't let your grief be your strength. The joy of the Lord – which means being satisfied in the Lord – is your strength.*

**這是的！** 因為這一天是主的聖日。上帝希望我們為自己的罪認罪，但不讓我們留在我們的罪中。他們不要再憂愁，因為主的喜樂是他們的力量。換句話說：不要讓你的眼淚成為你的力量。不要讓悲傷憂愁成為你的力量。靠耶和華而得的喜樂——這意味著在主裡得到滿足——是你的力量。

**12 Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.**

12 眾百姓去吃喝，也分給別人，都大大喜樂，因為他們明白所教導他們的話。

People have incredible joy and deep satisfaction because of the words that have been made known to them. God's Word has sunk in and taken root in their heart. They now understood them.

人們因為明白所教導他們的話而感到難以置信的喜悅和深深的滿足。上帝的話語已經深入人心，並在他們心中生根發芽。他們現在明白了。

They understood that if God could rebuild the wall in 52 days, He could transform them and cleanse them from all sin. They understood that God already forgave them. Because they know they are forgiven, they can worship and have satisfaction in the living King, their Lord.

他們明白，如果神能在 52 天內重建這堵城牆，他也能改變他們，洗淨他們所有的罪。他們明白上帝已經原諒了他們。因為他們知道自己被赦免了，所以他們可以敬拜並在永生的君王，他們的主身上得到滿足。

The opposite would be true if God's Word only grieves you, if listening to God's Word only causes further worries that you cannot fulfil God's requirement. If you have a heavy heart and feel that all being said from the Bible is easy said than done, a sense of self-pity, you have not fully understood His words.

如果神的話只會讓你憂傷，如果聽神的話只會讓你更擔心自己無法滿足神的要求，情況正好相反。如果你心情沉重，覺得聖經所說的一切都說起來容易做起來難，自憐自艾，那你就沒有完全明白他的話。

Because you have not become sorrowful as God intended, and you were driven further away from God by your conviction. Paul comforted the Corinthians church after his strong letter in 2 Cor 7:10, **“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret”**.

因為你並沒有按照上帝的意願變得憂愁，而你的罪惡感更驅使離上帝越來越遠。保羅在《哥林多前書》7 章 10 節安慰受了他的強烈信函的哥林多教會說，「**10 因為依著上帝的意思而憂愁，就生出沒有懊悔的悔改來，以致得救；**」

When God convicts you of your sins, he wants you to focus on repentance. And as you repent of your sins, you will have a deep sense of satisfaction knowing God is working to transform and save you.

當上帝讓你認出自己的罪時，祂希望你專注於悔改。當你為你的罪悔改時，你會深深地感到滿足，因為你知道上帝正在改變和拯救你。

That is the same essence of the teaching of James in James 1:22-25, 這與雅各在《雅各書》1:22-25 中教導的本質相同，

**22 Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.**  
22 但是，你們要作行道的人，不要只作聽道的人，自己欺騙自己。23 因為只聽道而不行道的，就像人對著鏡子觀看自己本來的面目，24 注視後，就離開，立刻忘了自己的相貌如何。25 惟有查看那完美、使人自由的律法，並且時常遵守的，他不是聽了就忘，而是切實行出來，這樣的人在所行的事上必然蒙福。

Make the necessary change you have learnt from God's Word, and you will experience the same depth of joy as those people in Nehemiah as God rebuilds your life through His Word. You will experience the blessed freedom that Jesus's gospel promises, a deep satisfaction.

做出你從上帝的話語中學到的必要改變，當上帝通過他的話語重建你的生命時，你將體驗到與《尼希米記》中的那些人一樣深的快樂。你會體驗到耶穌福音所應許的有福的自由，一種深深的滿足。

### **c. With Remembrance 心存紀念**

A couple of days ago was the 11th day of the 11th month, historically and traditionally in the West, a Day of Remembrance. The hostilities of WWI formally ended “at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month” of 1918.

幾天前是11月的第11天，在西方歷史上和傳統上是紀念日。第一次世界大戰的敵對行動於1918年「十一月十一日十一點」正式結束。

But that was 104 years ago. Most people impacted directly by that world war have long passed. And sadly, the events that replaced this momentous day tell a lot about the value our societies hold. 但那是104年前的事了。大多數直接受到那場世界大戰影響的人早已去世。可悲的是，取代這一重要日子的事件充分說明了我們社會所持有的價值。

In China, with the date having so many *1s*, it has been commercialised to represent Single’s Day, bearing the hope that single people will find their other half to complete their life. The concept that someone needs to get married and have children to represent a blessed life is worth another sermon.

在中國，有這麼多「一」的日期，已經商業化代表「光棍節」，寄望單身的人能找到另一半來完成人生。這種人需要結婚生子來代表幸福生活的概念值得另作一堂講道去探討。

In Australia, when November comes, we are reminded of the race that stops the nation. Once that is done, we are bombarded with advertisements that feed our FOMO, our fear of missing out, regarding the online shopping event that will stop the nation a week following that race.

在澳大利亞，當11月來臨時，我們會被提醒讓國家停頓的一場賽馬將臨。之後，我們就會被廣告轟炸，這些廣告助長了我們的「FOMO」- 我們害怕錯過，一場在線購物活動將在賽馬結束一週後再次停頓全國。

We live in an environment with information overload that fights for our attention. We often end up remembering or being reminded of things that are not important. But remembering the essentials is vital for our existence.

我們生活在一個信息超載的環境中，爭奪我們的注意力。我們經常最終會記住或被提醒不重要的事情。但記住基本要素對我們的存在至關重要。

Remembering the right thing was also vital for the people in Nehemiah’s time. And they have been reminded of something that they have neglected. They have not celebrated the festival of the booth as stipulated by God since God settled them into the promised land. In 8:17b, ***From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it like this.***

記住正確的事情對尼希米時代的人們也很重要。他們被提醒了一些他們忽略的事情。自從神把他們安置在應許地之後，他們就沒有按照神所規定的過住棚節。8:17下，**從嫩的兒子約書亞的時候直到這日，以色列人沒有這樣行。**

So why is the festival vital to their existence? What is the meaning behind this festival for them, and is it relevant to us? We are told in brief what they need to do in 8:13-16. Num 29:12-40 and Lev 23:33-43 also gave the meaning of the festival.

為什麼這節日對他們的存在至關重要呢？這個節日對他們有什麼意義，和我們有關係嗎？8:13-16簡要地告訴我們他們需要做什麼。《民數記》29:12-40和《利未記》23:33-43也給出了節日的含義。

After the harvest each year, they are to live in booths, temporary tents, for eight days to remember that God has led them through the Wilderness after He redeems them out of Egypt. The idea was to point back to when Israel experienced God's faithfulness. It reminded them of all the sin and grumbling that God had put up with over that time and how gracious God had been to them even so by providing harvest in due time.

每年收割後，他們要住在棚子，臨時帳篷裡，住八天，以記念上帝在將他們從埃及救贖出來後，已經帶領他們穿過曠野。這個想法是為了回溯以色列何時經歷了上帝的信實。這讓他們想起了上帝在那段時間所忍受的所有罪惡和抱怨，以及上帝在適當的時候提供收成，對他們是多麼的仁慈。

They were to remember how God had saved them every year so they would remain grateful and faithful to the Creator that provides everything. They were also to remember that God chose them to be the light of the world to point people back to Him. The people in Nehemiah's time got into all sorts of troubles and grieves because they did not remember who God was and who they were. They were restless and insecure.

每年他們要記住上帝是如何拯救他們，這樣他們才能對提供一切的創造者保持感激和忠誠。他們還要記住上帝揀選他們成為世界之光，將人們引向祂。尼希米時代的人陷入了各種各樣的煩惱和悲傷之中，因為他們不記得上帝是誰和他們是誰。他們焦躁不安，缺乏安全感。

The festival is God's way of saying *Remember Me*. Remember where you come from and who has been looking after you all your life. God is their ultimate security and rest. He is also our utmost security and rest.

這個節日是上帝說**記住我**的方式。記住你來自哪裡，誰一直在照顧你。上帝是他們最終的安全和安息。他也是我們最大的安全和休息。

In our day and age, when we are all so restless and tempted to forget God's goodness, we need to remember that God is the origin and source of our life. Only when we remember God has always been looking after us and get back to a relationship with God can we truly say we are living out the ultimate purpose of human existence. You will only find true freedom and deep joy if you live in remembrance and reverence of God.

在我們這個時代，當我們都如此焦躁不安並被試探去忘記上帝的良善時，我們需要記住上帝是我們生命的起源和源泉。只有當我們記得上帝一直在看顧我們並重新與上帝建立關係時，我們才能真正說我們正在實現人類存在的最終目的。只有活在對上帝的紀念和敬畏中，你才會找到真正的自由和深深的喜樂。

If you are not yet a worshipper of the great God and want to find out more, please let me know. I would love to help you to become part of God's rebuilding community. If you consider yourself part of God's community, let us join together in rejoicing that we have God's Word to build our life on. And God is always working in our hearts to transform us.

如果您還不是偉大的上帝的崇拜者並想了解更多資訊，請告訴我。我很樂意幫助你成為上帝重建社群的一部分。如果您認為自己是上帝社群的一員，讓我們一起為我們擁有上帝的話語來建立我們的生命而歡欣鼓舞。上帝總是在我們的心中工作以改變我們。