

# A KINGDOM DREAM BECOMES REALITY

## Turning Dreams Into Reality – Part 6

Nehemiah (selected)

May 28, 2017

### 5 HALLMARKS OF KINGDOM LIVING:

1. God's Word is faithfully read, studied, and obeyed.

*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. So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest...read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.... Day after day, from the first to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God.* – Neh. 8:1-3, 18 NIV

*"The rest of the people...together with their wives and all their sons and daughters who are able to understand—all these now join their fellow Israelites the nobles and bind themselves with a curse and an oath to follow the Law of God given through Moses the servant of God and to obey carefully all the commands, regulations and decrees of the LORD our Lord."* – Neh. 10:28-29 NIV

2. God's people are committed to sharing life together.

*Nehemiah said, "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." ...Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they understood the words that had been made known to them.... The whole company that had returned from exile built temporary shelters and lived in them. From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated like this. And their joy was very great.* – Neh. 8:10, 12 & 17 NIV

3. Heart-felt, earnest worship is a consistent priority.

*They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshiping the LORD their God.... They cried out with loud voices to the Lord their God. And the Levites said, "...Stand up and praise the LORD your God who is from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. You alone are the LORD."* – Neh. 9:3, 5 & 6 NIV

4. Faithful giving becomes the norm.

*"We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the LORD each year the firstfruits of our crops and of every fruit tree...the first of our ground meal, of our grain offerings, of the fruit of all our trees and our new wine and olive oil. And we will bring a tithe of our crops to the Levites, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes*

*in all the towns where we work.... The people of Israel, including the Levites, are to bring their contributions of grain, new wine and olive oil to the storerooms, where the articles of the sanctuary and for the ministering priests, the gatekeepers and the musicians are also kept. We will not neglect the house of our God." – Neh. 10:35, 37-39 NIV*

*All Judah brought the tithes of grain, new wine and olive oil into the storerooms. – Neh. 13:12 NIV*

**5. God's people refuse to marry outside the Christian faith.**

*Moreover, in those days I saw men of Judah who had married women from Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab.... I rebuked them and called curses down on them. I beat some of the men and pulled out their hair. I made them take an oath in God's name and said: "You are not to give your daughters in marriage to their sons, nor are you to take their daughters in marriage for your sons or for yourselves. Was it not because of marriages like these that Solomon king of Israel sinned? Among the many nations there was no king like him..., but even he was led into sin by foreign women. Must we hear now that you too are doing this terrible wickedness and are being unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women?"" – Neh. 13:23, 25-27 NIV*