

Ezra blessed the Lord; by offering prayer. **All the people answered**. They responded to his words by loud Amens, taking an audible part in the worship. **Lifting up their hands**; an act of adoration. **Bowed their heads**; in token of humble penitence. **7, 8. The people stood**; eagerly and patiently listening. **Read distinctly**; so that all might hear every word. **And gave**

the sense; explained the meaning.

9-12. The Tirshatha; the Persian title for governor. **Mourn not nor weep**; because contrary to the spirit of the day. **The people wept**; because they had broken and neglected the law. **The joy of the Lord is your strength**. They were glad because they trusted God, and strong because they were glad.

Juniors

ASK YOURSELF

Seniors

1-3. Who gathered together? Where? When? What did they ask Ezra to do? Who was Ezra? (See also v. 9.) How long did he read? How did the people listen?

4-6. Where did Ezra stand? How many with him? For what purpose? Describe an ancient "book." (See Isa. 8:1.) How opened? What is the meaning of Amen?

7, 8. To which tribe did these men belong? What duty was given them?

9-12. What does "Tirshatha" mean? To whom given here? What is meant by a scribe? How was the day to be kept? Why? What caused the weeping? What command given? Whom were they to help? What is meant by "the joy of the Lord"?

1-3. Taking the figure of a school, who were the members? What brought so many? Describe the place of meeting. (Chap. 3:26.) Who was the leader? What was the textbook? What had God commanded? (Deut. 11:18-20; Josh. 1:8.)

4-7. Who were the teachers? Assistants? (See also v. 7.) How was the service opened? What implied in "lifting up of hands"? What other acts mentioned? In what does true worship consist?

7, 8. What was studied? In what three ways? For what are the Scriptures profitable? (Psa. 119:7; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17.)

9-12. What followed the lesson?

PRACTICAL

1. Young and old should study God's Word together.

2. Eager scholars make glad teachers.

3. If we love God's law, we shall love to study it.

4. Trust—Joy—Strength—a blessed trinity.

5. If the love of God is in our hearts, we shall share with those who need.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What was the purpose of this great meeting?

2. Who read? Who explained? Who listened? What followed?

3. Show how trust in God, joy, and strength are connected with one another.