

## Chapter 8

*Efdras readeth the law before the people. 9. Nehemias comforteth them. 13. They celebrate the feaft of tabernacles feuen dayes: 13. & of collection the eight day.*

**A**nd al the people was gathered together as it were one man to the ftreate, which is before the water and they fayd to Efdras the fcribe, that he fhould bring the booke of the law of Moyfes, which our Lord had commanded Ifrael. <sup>2</sup> Efdras therefore the prieft <sup>a</sup>)brought the law before the multitude of men and wemen, and al that could vnderftand, in the firft day of the feuenth moneth. <sup>3</sup> And he read it playnly in the ftreate that was before the water gate, from morning vntil midday, in the prefence of the men, and wemen, and of thofe that vnderftood: and the eares of al the people were attent to the booke. <sup>4</sup> And Efdras the fcribe ftood vpon a fteppe of wood, which he made to fpeake vpon: and there ftood by him Mathathias, and Semeia, and Ania, and Vria, and Helcia, and Maafia, on his right hand: and on the left: Phadaia, Mifael, and Melchia, and Hafum, and Hafbadana, Zacharia, and Mofollam. <sup>5</sup> And Efdras opened the booke before al the people: for he appeared aboue al the people: and when he had opened it, al the people ftood. <sup>6</sup> And Efdras bleffed our Lord the great God: and al the people answered: Amen, amen: lifting vp their handes, and they bowed, and adored God flatte on the earth. <sup>7</sup> Moreouer Iofue, & Bani, and Serebia, Iamin, Accub, Septhai, Odia, Maafia, Celita, Azarias, Iozabed, Hanan, Phalaia: Leuites made

---

<sup>a</sup> The people requested Efdras, to *bring the booke* of the law, and he *brought it*, neither is there anie mention that he writte the whole law out of his memorie or by miracle which maketh it probable that al copies were not burned or loft, but fome referued by Ieremias, Ezechiel, Daniel, Ageus, Zacharias, or by him felfe or others out of which he collected one intire volume correcting faultes committed by fcribes, & adding fome thinges for explication fake & fupplement of the hiftories: and that either by tradition or reuelation.

filence in the people to heare the law: and the people  
ftoode in their degree. <sup>8</sup> And they read in the booke of  
the law of God diftinctly and playnly, for to vnderftand:  
and they vnderftood when it was read. <sup>9</sup> And Nehemias  
faid (the fame is <sup>a</sup>)Atherfatha) and Efdras the Prieft and  
fcribe, and the Leuites interpreting to al the people: It  
is a day fanctified to the Lord our God, mourne ye not,  
and weepe not. For al the people wept, when they  
heard the wordes of the law. <sup>10</sup> And he faid to them:  
Goe, eate fat thinges, and drinck the fweete wine, and  
fend portions to them, that haue not prepared for them  
felues: becaufe it is the holie day of our Lord, and be  
not fadde: for the ioy of our Lord is our ftrength. <sup>11</sup> And  
the Leuites made filence in al the people, faying: Hold  
your peace, becaufe the day is holie, and be not forow-  
ful. <sup>12</sup> Therefore al the people went to eate and drinck,  
and to fend portions, and to make great ioy: becaufe  
they vnderftood the wordes, that he had taught them.  
<sup>13</sup> And in the fecond day were gathered the princes of  
the families of al the people, the Priefts and Leuites to  
Efdras the fcribe, that he fhould interpret vnto them  
the wordes of the law. <sup>14</sup> And they found written in the  
law, that our Lord commanded in the hand of Moyfes,  
that the children of Ifrael fhould dwel in tabernacles,  
on the folemne day, the feuenth moneth: <sup>15</sup> and that they  
fhould proclame and publifh a voice in al their cities,  
and in Ierufalem, faying: Goe ye forth into the mount,  
and fetch branches of the oliue tree, and branches of the moft  
fayre tree, branches of the mirtle tree, and boughes of  
the palme trees, and branches of the thicke leaued tree,  
that tabernacles may be made, as it is written. <sup>16</sup> And  
the people went forth, and brought. And they made  
them felues tabernacles euery man in his houfe toppe,  
and in his courtes, and in the courtes of the houfe of God,  
and in the ftreate of the water gate, and in the ftreate of  
the gate of Ephraim. <sup>17</sup> Therefore al the church of them,

---

<sup>a</sup> *Atherfatha priuileged*, by reafon of his fauour with king Artax-  
erxes. *chap. 2.*

that were returned from the captiuitie, made tabernacles, and dwelt in tabernacles. For from the daies of Iofue the fonne of Nun the children of Ifrael had not done it in fuch fort, vntil that day: and there was exceeding great ioy. <sup>18</sup> And he reade in the booke of the law of God day by day, from the firft day til the laft, and they made the folemnitie feuen dayes, & in the eight day a collect according to the rite.