

Skit: God's Great Book

(People are gathered—and sitting—in front of gate.)

Nehemiah: People, we have done many good works over the past months. When we first came to Jerusalem, the city wall was broken and the gates were burned. We worked hard to repair the city wall and to put up new gates.

When enemies saw the good work we were doing, they tried to attack us and make us stop rebuilding the wall. However, they did not defeat us, for while half of us worked, the other half stood by with weapons to defend us. Now the wall has been fixed, and all our enemies see that Jerusalem is once again strong, and they know they cannot beat us.

We have been away from Jerusalem a very long time. Now that we are back, it will be good for us to remember the law that the Lord delivered to Moses.

Where is Ezra the scribe?

Ezra: Here I am. What do you want me to do?

Nehemiah: Bring the Book of the Law of Moses and read it before all of the people in Jerusalem so that everyone can hear what the Lord has commanded Israel.

(Ezra goes to platform and opens book.)

(All people stand.)

Ezra: These are the things that are written in the Book of the Law of Moses.

“I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet.

Crowd: Amen, amen!

Ezra: There are many more things written in the Book of the Law of Moses. Are you people willing to stand all day long while I read the things in the law?

Crowd: Yes, we will stand all day while you read!

(Crowd begins to weep.)

Nehemiah: This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not cry! Instead, when this day is over, go eat and drink and rejoice!

Crowd: Hooray! The joy of the Lord is our strength!