

Week 46  
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**Transforming Daily**  
“ . . .*the Book of the Law of Moses* . . . ”  
*Nehemiah 8:1*

As a part of the celebration service of thanksgiving and praise at the completion of the rebuilding of the city walls of Jerusalem, Ezra read from the Book of the Law (Torah or first five books of the Old Testament). It was an act of recommitment and reconsecration on behalf of the children of Israel. The purpose was to reemphasize the covenant of God with Israel. The law underscores the provision and protection of God to the children of Israel irrespective of their blatant disregard, disrespect, and disobedience for the presence and name of God (keep in mind that this event just precedes the 400 silent years).

Even in light of Israel's over all failure to be the name bearer and devoted people of God (a faithful remnant notwithstanding), they still had reason and sense enough to give God thanks and praise for His faithfulness and longsuffering toward them. Ultimately God's mercy was (is) revealed toward Israel (and every nation) in the birth of Jesus Christ and His judgment will be evident against Israel (and all who choose not to believe) in the second coming of Jesus Christ. For this reason alone all mankind has an occasion to give thanks to God.

The New Testament believer has the same relationship to the Law as the children of Israel. The Law is universal. It was never intended to save anyone, but in light of it, Christ shines forth as its fulfillment. The Law reveals to the sinner that they are at enmity with God and in need of a Savior – the only One who can fulfill the Law and yet not do away with it. The Bible speaks of the Law as a tutor or teacher pointing the sinner to the Savior. Thanks be to God for His provision and protection through the Law! Greater thanks be to God for His fulfilling the Law through the person of Jesus Christ!

When's the last time you thanked God for the Law? When is the last time that you read Exodus 20? When's the last time that you read the first five books of the Old Testament, the Book of the Law of Moses?