

Study Hints for Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Nehemiah 13:10-22

Sunday, August 25, 2013

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

**Five Questions for Discussion
and Thinking Further**

1. What happened when the Israelites stopped paying their tithes?

The Levites had to go away to work in their fields to support their families; therefore, they could not perform their temple duties in obedience to God and for God’s people.

2. What did the political leaders or nobles do while Nehemiah was away reporting to the King of Persia?

They disregarded the Law of God and the House of God was forsaken. They desecrated the Sabbath and misled the people into disregarding the Sabbath. They did evil.

3. What criteria or standard did Nehemiah use when he chose treasurers?

They were considered faithful based on people's observations.

4. How many people today could honestly pray as Nehemiah did in Nehemiah 13:14? What do they need to do to be able to honestly pray as Nehemiah did?

Probably very few. They need to do good deeds for the House of God (the Church, God's people). They need to do good deeds for God's service rather than serve themselves.

5. Who was responsible for profaning the Sabbath? What did Nehemiah need to do to stop them from profaning the Sabbath?

The nobles. He had to lock the city gates himself and set a guard of his own trusted soldiers to make the nobles obey God.

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