

the story

Pastor
STEVE STEELE

GOD'S STORY IS OUR STORY

Date Published
SEPTEMBER 7th, 2025

_____ is all in.

“...this Ezra came up from Babylon. He was a teacher well versed in the Law of Moses, which the Lord, the God of Israel, had given. The king had granted him everything he asked, for the hand of the Lord his God was on him.”

~ EZRA 7:6 (NIV)

“But now, our God, what can we say after this? For we have forsaken the commands.” ~ EZRA 9:10 (NIV)

_____ is all in.

“When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. Then I said:

‘Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.’ ”

~ NEHEMIAH 1:4-7 (NIV)

“...but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.”

~ NEHEMIAH 1:9 (NIV)

The _____ is all in.

“Also our enemies said, ‘Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.’

Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, ‘Wherever you turn, they will attack us.’ ”

~ NEHEMIAH 4:11-12 (NIV)

The _____ are all in.

“Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows. After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, ‘Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.’ ”

~ NEHEMIAH 4:13-14 (NIV)

“Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, ‘Amen! Amen!’ Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.”

~ NEHEMIAH 8:5-6 (NIV)

AMEN means _____ .

“ The Levites - Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah - instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.”

~ NEHEMIAH 8:7-8 (NIV)

They _____, _____, & _____.

“ Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.”

~ NEHEMIAH 8:12 (NIV)

“ The whole company that had returned from exile built temporary shelters and lived in them. From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it like this. And their joy was very great.”

~ NEHEMIAH 8:17 (NIV)

So WHAT?

Don't just sit there... _____.

“ Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it - not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it - they will be blessed in what they do.”

~ JAMES 1:22-25 (NIV)

_____ to go all in.

“ 'I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,' says the Lord Almighty.”

~ MALACHI 3:1 (NIV)

“ In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

'A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.' ”

~ MATTHEW 3:1-3 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS available on the APP |

🍏 ▶️ 🍏 tv Roku firetv 📺 Google TV

- 1 - What has been the biggest gamble you ever undertook in your life? What happened? Have you ever had to go all in, bet everything and really no turning back? What happened?
- 2 - What keeps people from going “all in” for God?
- 3 - Read Nehemiah 1:1-7 in your Bible. Nehemiah's first response to the news his home Jerusalem was in ruins was to pray. Why is this important to the story? Why is prayer sometimes our last resort not our first?

- 4 - Re-read Nehemiah 4:13-14. The people in Jerusalem worked with a sword in one hand and a trowel in the other. Can you think of a time you were under attack but had to press forward anyway? How did you do that?
- 5 - The point of “the Story” has been to give us the big picture of the Bible as one story. To help us understand. As we finish the Old Testament are there still parts of “the Story” so far that you have trouble understanding? Share them with your group and help each other understand.
- 6 - Are you ready to say AMEN? I'm all in! For God? For your church? For your growth group? That is cause for a party! Plan a growth group party, think of others you can invite: neighbors, friends, co-workers, or people from church who don't have a group yet.

GET CONNECTED at FIRST:



ONLINE at
fbclodi.org



The APP 🍏 & ▶️
Search “FBC Lodi”



Smart TV “FBC Lodi”
🍏 tv Roku firetv Google TV



EMAIL
Weekly Email

267 N. MILLS AVE
209.334.1332

