

# NEHEMIAH CHAPTERS 10-12 - "The People Who Sealed the Covenant; The Covenant That Was Sealed; The People Dwelling in Jerusalem; The People Dwelling Outside Jerusalem; The Priests and Levites; Nehemiah Dedicates the Wall; Temple Responsibilities

## OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221**; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com) Click on "Bible Studies" on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

### **EZRA – BOOK OF RESTORATION; NEHEMIAH – BOOK OF RECONSTRUCTION**

**Walls completed, great revival under Ezra, return to the word, worship and confession. Now they want to make a covenant. We want to make a stand for our hour, our generation, where Your people walked the way You have instructed. We will submit! We will separate! We will support! Our hearts are toward You!**

#### **The People Who Sealed the Covenant**

**Neh 10:1-27** Now those who placed their seal on the document were: Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah, and Zedekiah, [2] Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah, [3] Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah, [4] Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch, [5] Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah, [6] Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch, [7] Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin, [8] Maaziah, Bilgai, and Shemaiah. These were the priests.

[9] The Levites: Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, and Kadmiel.

[10] Their brethren: Shebaniah, Hodijah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan, [11] Micha, Rehob, , [12] Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah, [13] Hodijah, Bani, and Beninu.

[14] The leaders of the people: Parosh, Pahath-Moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani, [15] Bunni, Azgad, , [16] Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin, [17] Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur, [18] Hodijah, Hashum, Bezai, [19] Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai, [20] Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir, [21] Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua, [22] Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah, [23] Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub, [24] Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek, [25] Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah, [26] Ahijah, Hanan, Anan, [27] Malluch, Harim, and Baanah.

#### **The Obligations of the Covenant**

**Neh 10:28** Now the rest of the people—the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the Nethinim, and all those who had separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, everyone who had knowledge and understanding—

**Neh 10:29** these joined with their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, and His ordinances and His statutes:

**Neh 10:30** We would not give our daughters as wives to the peoples of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons;

#### **v. 1-27** The Those who placed their seal on the document:

At the end of Nehemiah chapter 9, the people had come to a place of decision, and now, collectively, the nation was going to do something about it by entering into a covenant.

**Those who placed their seal on the document:** It was wonderful for the nation as a whole to feel that something had to be done about the sin problem among them. But it was meaningless unless individuals came forth to say "we will do something about this." Here are the governor, priests, Levites and leaders (84 in all) willing to put their name on the line for the covenant before God. **On the document:** They knew what covenants were all about, and how important they were to God. They remembered God made a covenant with Abraham, promising that both a nation and the Messiah would descend from him; God made a covenant with Moses and the nation of Israel when He gave them the law at Mount Sinai; God made a covenant with King David, promising the Messiah would come from his family. But the greatest covenant, the New Covenant instituted by the Messiah, was yet to come.

**vs. 2-9** The priests and Levites who signed the covenant.

**vs. 14-27** The civic leaders who signed the covenant.

**vs 28-29.** The making of the covenant with God. **Now the rest of the people:** The 84 mentioned previously sealed the covenant, but the rest of the people - that is, everyone who had knowledge and understanding - also made the covenant with God. **Their wives, their sons, and their daughters, everyone who had knowledge and understanding:** They didn't want to relate to God through a mediator group of people, but here are indicating the they want to be direct participants of this covenant. They acknowledged the curses if they failed to keep that covenant and also the oath to walk in God's law that was given by Moses.

**v. 30.** The terms of the covenant. They now commit to not do the historical violations. The first is intermarriage with pagans. We would not give our daughters as wives to the people of the land nor take their daughters for our sons! **This was not on racial grounds but on spiritual grounds!** There was always a great temptation for poor families to marry off their children to those coming from families of great wealth. Soon the **Messiah will be brought into the world through the pure line of tribe of Judah!**

#### **TIME LINE – BOOKS OF EZRA – ("Bible Hub" online)**

537 BC	The Proclamation of Cyrus	Ezra 1
<b>537 BC</b>	The Exiles Return	Ezra 2
535 BC	Temple Work Begins (70 yrs. from 605BC)	Ezra 3
534 BC	Artaxerxes Orders Work Stopped	Ezra 4:17
520 BC	Tattenai's Letter to Darius	Ezra 5
520 BC	Temple Work Resumed by Darius' Decree	Ezra 6
(Books of Haggai & Zechariah occur here)		
515 BC	Completion and Dedication of the Temple	Ezra 6:16
<b>(Book of Esther occurs here)(about 60 yrs. from 1<sup>st</sup> return)</b>		
458 BC	Ezra to Jerusalem (147 years from 605;79 years from 1st return; 57 years from last verse of chapter 6!)	Ezra 7
458 BC	Ezra Commissioned by Artaxerxes	Ezra 7:11
457 BC	Families Return to Jerusalem with Ezra	Ezra 8
457 BC	Ezra's reforms (80 yrs. from 1 <sup>st</sup> return)	Ezra 9
456 BC	Ezra's Prayer About Intermarriage	Ezra 10

#### **BOOK OF NEHEMIAH (about 100 years from 1<sup>st</sup> return)**

445 BC	Nehemiah's Prayer for the Exiles	Nehemiah 1
444 BC	Artaxerxes Sends Nehemiah to Jerusalem	Nehemiah 2
444 BC	Builders of the Walls Named	Nehemiah 3
444 BC	Builders Overcome Ridicule	Nehemiah 4
444 BC	Nehemiah Abolishes Debt and Bondage	Nehemiah 5
444 BC	Completion of the Wall	Neh. 6:15
444 BC	Census of Returned Exiles	Nehemiah 7
444 BC	Ezra Reads the Law	Nehemiah 8
444 BC	Israelites Fast and Repent	Nehemiah 9
<b>444 BC</b>	<b>Israelites Seal the Covenant</b>	<b>Neh. 10</b>
<b>444 BC</b>	<b>People Settle in Jerusalem</b>	<b>Neh. 11, 12</b>
432 BC	Nehemiah Restores Laws	Neh. 13

#### **Kings of Persia in Ezra-Nehemiah:**

Cyrus (539-530-9yrs); Darius I (522-486-36yrs); Xerxes (Ahasueres 485-464-21yrs); Artaxerxes I (464-423-41yrs)

**v. 1-8** Again we see the names of those who took a strong stand to have their names written in God's word. The list begins with Nehemiah and here includes 22 priests.

**vs. 9-13** **The Levites** and **their brethren** are next with 17 names.

**v. 14-27** **The leaders** who signed totaled 44 names.

**vs. 28-29** Next includes **the rest of the people**. They were indicating their seriousness to obey the whole word of God! **Notice the men are taking the lead! Separation!**

**v. 30** They indicate their promise **not to return to the historical sins of their fathers, but to obey the Lord totally**. The first mentioned is not to intermarry with *the people of the land*. We still have that temptation today!

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## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

*Neh 10:31 if the peoples of the land brought wares or any grain to sell on the Sabbath day, we would not buy it from them on the Sabbath, or on a holy day; and we would forego the seventh year's produce and the exacting of every debt.*  
*Neh 10:32 Also we made ordinances for ourselves, to exact from ourselves yearly one-third of a shekel for the service of the house of our God:*  
*Neh 10:33 for the showbread, for the regular grain offering, for the regular burnt offering of the Sabbaths, the New Moons, and the set feasts; for the holy things, for the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and all the work of the house of our God (9X).*  
*Neh 10:34 We cast lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for bringing the wood offering into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at the appointed times year by year, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God as it is written in the Law.*  
*Neh 10:35 And we made ordinances to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, to the house of the LORD;*  
*Neh 10:36 to bring the firstborn of our sons and our cattle, as it is written in the Law, and the firstborn of our herds and our flocks, to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God;*  
*Neh 10:37 to bring the firstfruits of our dough, our offerings, the fruit from all kinds of trees, the new wine and oil, to the priests, to the storerooms of the house of our God; and to bring the tithes of our land to the Levites, for the Levites should receive the tithes in all our farming communities.*  
*Neh 10:38 And the priest, the descendant of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive tithes; and the Levites shall bring up a tenth of the tithes to the house of our God, to the rooms of the storehouse.*  
*Neh 10:39 For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the grain, of the new wine and the oil, to the storerooms where the articles of the sanctuary are, where the priests who minister and the gatekeepers and the singers are; and we will not neglect the house of our God.*  
*The Leaders in Jerusalem*  
*Neh 11:1 Now the leaders of the people dwelt at Jerusalem; the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to dwell in Jerusalem, the holy city, and nine-tenths were to dwell in other cities.*  
*Neh 11:2 And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem.*

*v. 31 ...wares or any grain to sell on the Sabbath day:* Under the Law, no one could buy or sell anything on the Sabbath day. They had been breaking this law, but now they are making a covenant with God to obey it. *...not buy it .... on the Sabbath:* The motive of profit was behind the breaking of this law. They could make more money selling on seven days instead of six. This was a covenant to make money only in ways that were obedient and glorifying to God  
*vs. 32-39* The third area of decision: we will be faithful to God when it comes to supporting God's work. *...one-third of a shekel for the service of the house of our God:* They made an ordinance for a yearly tax to support the workings of the temple. People were required to bring wood to the temple on a rotating basis. They agreed to obey the command to bring the firstborn and the firstfruits, and ten percent of the produce of their land (a tithe) unto the house of God.

*v. 36* Giving God the first, not the leftovers as is the custom of many."

*v. 37* They committed to give "off the top"! Bringing in a tenth part of your crops and all for the sustenance of the Levites who ministered within the temple.

*v. 39 ...not neglect the house of our God:* Earlier they had covenanted to make money in ways that would glorify God, Now they covenant to spend their money in ways that glorify God - and beginning it all with giving unto the Lord. Also we need to be involved in giving, not only for the sake of the recipients, but for our own sake as givers! Giving as the Lord leads gives us a much clearer vision about material things. Our Lord, Himself, is the greatest giver.

### Chapter 11 – Committing to having people living rebuilding homes in the city!

*v. 1* To bring one out of ten to dwell in Jerusalem: It wasn't enough to see the city walls rebuilt and the spiritual renewal of the people of Jerusalem; now they concerned themselves with getting more of the leaders and the people into the city. It was agreed that by lot, one out of ten would be brought to live within the city walls, so following, about ten percent of the Jews would live in Jerusalem.

*v. 2 ...blessed all the men who willingly...to dwell at Jerusalem:* Apart from the leaders (who had a special obligation) and those selected in the lottery (who were also obligated), there were all the men who willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem. Prov. 16:33

*v. 31* The people are not just making a big, general commitment to God, but are specific, as to their historical sins, First no **intermarriage**. Now **to commit to keeping the Sabbath rest** by not buying and selling and not to forego *the seventh year's produce*. **This is tremendous faith they show by trusting God for their businesses, as giving up the income of commerce on the Sabbath would cost them. and exacting of debts.** This was the acceptable fast, to *undo the heavy burden, and to let the oppressed go free, Isa 58:6.*

*v. 32* To keep the requirement of exacting *one third of a shekel for the service of the house of our God!*

*v. 33-* Now they are committing to the making of all offerings in conjunction with the Sabbaths, the New Moons, and the set feasts and for the work of the house of our God! It was their commitment not that of Persia.

*v. 34 Lev 6:12a* And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out. And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning ...So making provision for the continuous supply of wood. **What a reminder that our fire for Him must never be put out!**

*v. 35-37* Acknowledging that all things are from the LORD, the committed to the **giving of first fruits** per the Law. **Do we acknowledge that all of ours is from the LORD?**

*v. 36* Here is the commitment for the giving of all firstborn to the LORD. These would then be "redeemed" by the prescribed payment. See **Leviticus 27.**

*vs. 37-38* A commitment to bring in the required first fruits and tithes.

*v. 39* A tenth of a tenth will go to the priests and **they will not neglect the house of our God! By chapter 13, they will have violated every one of these commitments.**

*vs. 1-2* The walls were built to protect Jerusalem, but it for the benefit of the Jews. More Jews were needed! By casting of lots they chose one out ten, trusting God to direct that. Making a move from your present homes and land in outlying cities and villages, is a huge thing. Recognizing this big commitment, people blessed those who willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem. They praised them for it, and wished them all happiness and prosperity, since they made the significant effort of moving for the sake of the public good! **Most prefer their own wealth, credit, pleasure, ease, and safety, before the glory of God and the public good.**

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## **INTERPRETATION**

## **APPLICATION**

*Neh 11:3 These are the heads of the province who dwelt in Jerusalem. (But in the cities of Judah everyone dwelt in his own possession in their cities—Israelites, priests, Levites, Nethinim, and descendants of Solomon's servants.)*  
*Neh 11:4 Also in Jerusalem dwelt some of the children of Judah and of the children of Benjamin. The children of Judah: Athaiah the son of Uziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalalel, of the children of Perez;  
*Neh 11:5 and Maaseiah the son of Baruch, the son of Col-Hozeh, the son of Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, the son of Shiloni.*  
*Neh 11:6 All the sons of Perez who dwelt at Jerusalem were four hundred and sixty-eight valiant men.*  
*Neh 11:7 And these are the sons of Benjamin: Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Joed, the son of Pedaiiah, the son of Kolaiah, the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ithiel, the son of Jeshaiiah;  
*Neh 11:8 and after him Gabbai and Sallai, nine hundred and twenty-eight.*  
*Neh 11:9 Joel the son of Zichri was their overseer, and Judah the son of Senuah was second over the city.*  
*Neh 11:10 Of the priests: Jedaiah the son of Joiarib, and Jachin;  
*Neh 11:11 Seraiah the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, was the leader of the house of God.*  
*Neh 11:12 Their brethren who did the work of the house were eight hundred and twenty-two; and Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pelaliah, the son of Amzi, the son of Zechariah, the son of Pashhur, the son of Malchijah,  
*Neh 11:13 and his brethren, heads of the fathers' houses, were two hundred and forty-two; and Amashai the son of Azarel, the son of Ahzai, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer,  
*Neh 11:14 and their brethren, mighty men of valor, were one hundred and twenty-eight. Their overseer was Zabdiel the son of one of the great men.*  
*Neh 11:15 Also of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni;  
*Neh 11:16 Shabbethai and Jozabad, of the heads of the Levites, had the oversight of the business outside of the house of God;  
*Neh 11:17 Mattaniah the son of Micha, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, the leader who began the thanksgiving with prayer; Bakbukiah, the second among his brethren; and Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun.*  
*Neh 11:18 All the Levites in the holy city were two hundred and eighty-four.********

*vs. 3-24* Having been enrolled earlier (chap. 7), the families living in Jerusalem are named here ...*heads of the province*: This list includes Judah and Benjamin tribal leaders, military men, priests, Levites, gatekeepers, and civil and royal servants....*who dwelt in Jerusalem*: All these men and their families took the lead by choosing to settle in Jerusalem, setting a good example for all God's people.

*v. 6* Notice the lot fell on **186 valiant men!**

*v. 9* Notice the lot fell on **an overseer!**  
*vs. 10-11* Of the priests, three divisions are listed. Ahitub listed as the leader of the house of God.

*v. 14* Notice the lot fell on **128 men of valor, whose overseer was Zabdiel the son of one of the great men.**

*vs. 15-18* The Levites in the holy city numbered two hundred and eighty four.

*vs. 4-6* There were four hundred and sixty-eight men of Judah, each the head of a household

*vs. 7-8* The Benjamites were nine hundred and twenty-eight families strong

*v. 9* Joel . . . and Judah were their overseer

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## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

*Neh 11:19 Moreover the gatekeepers, Akkub, Talmon, and their brethren who kept the gates, were one hundred and seventy-two.*  
*Neh 11:20 And the rest of Israel, of the priests and Levites, were in all the cities of Judah, everyone in his inheritance.*  
*Neh 11:[21] But the Nethinim dwelt in Ophel. And Ziha and Gishpa were over the Nethinim. [22] Also the overseer of the Levites at Jerusalem was Uzzi the son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micha, of the sons of Asaph, the singers in charge of the service of the house of God. [23] For it was the king's command (Artaxerxes) concerning them that a certain portion should be for the singers, a quota day by day. [24] Pethahiah the son of Meshezabel, of the children of Zerah the son of Judah, was the king's deputy in all matters concerning the people.*

*The People Dwelling in Villages Outside Jerusalem [25] And as for the villages with their fields, some of the children of Judah dwelt in Kirjath Arba and its villages, Dibon and its villages, Jekabzeel and its villages; [26] in Jeshua, Moladah, Beth Pelet, [27] Hazar Shual, and Beersheba and its villages; [28] in Ziklag and Meconah and its villages; [29] in En Rimmon, Zorah, , [30] Zanoah, Adullam, and their villages; in Lachish and its fields; in Azekah and its villages. They dwelt from Beersheba to the Valley of Hinnom. [31] Also the children of Benjamin from Geba dwelt in Michmash, Aija, and Bethel, and their villages; [32] in Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah; [33] in Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim; [34] in Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat; [35] in Lod, Ono, and the Valley of Craftsmen. [36] Some of the Judean divisions of Levites were in Benjamin.*

*The Priest and the Levites (at the time of Zerubbabel)*  
*Neh 12:1-26 Now these are the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, [2] Amariah, Malluch, Hattush, [3] Shechaniah, Rehum, Meremoth, [4] Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah, [5] Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah, :[6] Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah, [7] Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, and Jedaiah. These were the heads of the priests and their brethren in the days of Jeshua. [8] Moreover the Levites were Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, and Mattaniah who led the thanksgiving psalms, he and his brethren. [9] Also Bakbukiah and Unni, their brethren, stood across from them in their duties.[10] Jeshua begot Joiakim, Joiakim begot Eliashib, Eliashib begot Joiada, [11] Joiada begot Jonathan, and Jonathan begot Jaddua. [12] Now in the days of Joiakim, the priests, the heads of the fathers' houses were: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah; [13] of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan; [14] of Melichu, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph;[15] of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai; [16] of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon,*

*v. 19* One hundred and seventy-two gatekeepers.

*v. 21* The temple servants, under Ziha and Gishpa, lived in Ophel, a section of Jerusalem close to the temple, a strategic place.

*vs. 22-24* A man named Uzzi had overall charge of the Levites, and Pethahiah was the king's agent in the city, under Nehemiah, of course

*vs. 25-30* The rest (9/10) of the Jews lived in the neighboring villages: Judah lived in the villages listed in these verses

*vs. 31-35* , and Benjamin in the villages listed in verses 31-35

*v. 36* Some divisions of Levites that formerly lived in Judah now moved over to the territory of Benjamin

*Chapter 12:1-26* This basically deals with the fact of the importance being given to the Jewish bloodlines of those Priests and Levites in the service of the LORD It is a selective rather than exhaustive listing of priests and Levites from the time of Zerubbabel and Jeshua, recording the key priests and Levites through three generations of high priests: (1) Jeshua who came in the initial return with Zerubbabel c. 538 B.C. (Neh\_12:1-11); (2) Joiakim, the son of Jeshua (Neh\_12:12-21); (3) Eliashib (cf. Neh\_3:1), the son of Joiakim (Neh\_12:22-23); and (4) a miscellaneous group who served in the days of Joiakim (Neh\_12:24-26).

*vs. 1-11* Priests, twenty-two courses mentioned, and eight Levites in the days of Zerubbabel, the high priest.

*v. 7* days of Jeshua , son of Jozadak– also known as Joshua, son of Jozadak, (Ezra 3:2; Haggai 1:1; Zech. 3:1), 538 B.C., about 75 years earlier)

*v. 8* Jeshua , son of Jozadak– also known as Joshua, son of Jozadak, (Ezra 2:40; Neh. 7:43), about 95 years earlier)

*vs. 10-11* Five generations of priests are shown here.

*vs. 12- 21* Priests in the days of Joiakim, son of Jeshua.

*v. 20* 3,044 men are shown here, which if a tenth means the population of Jews in Jerusalem was not very large.

*v. 35* We need to notice the great detail being given here, which would be very interesting and important to the Jews who returned from their exile in Babylon. God is a great keeper of books. Is your name in His Book of Life? All of your children? Maybe you grandchildren?

**STANDING ON THE PROMISES** - Russell Carter – Maranatha Singers

*1 Standing on the promises of Christ the King, through eternal ages let His praises ring; glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God.*

*Refrain: Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior; standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.*

*2 Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)*

*3 Standing on the promises I now can see Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me; Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free, Standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)*

*4 Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord, overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword, standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)*

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## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

*Meshullam; [17] of Abijah, Zichri; the son of Minjamin; of Moadiah, Piltai; [18] of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan; [19] of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi; [20] of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber; [21] of Hilkiah, Hashabiah; and of Jedaiah, Nethanel. [22] During the reign of Darius the Persian, a record was also kept of the Levites and priests who had been heads of their fathers' houses in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan, and Jaddua.*  
*Neh 12:23 The sons of Levi, the heads of the fathers' houses until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib, were written in the book of the chronicles.*  
*Neh 12:24 And the heads of the Levites were Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brothers across from them, to praise and give thanks, group alternating with group, according to the command of David the man of God.*  
*Neh 12:25 Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were gatekeepers keeping the watch at the storerooms of the gates.*  
*Neh 12:26 These lived in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor, and of Ezra the priest, the scribe.*  
*Dedication of the Wall*  
*Neh 12:27 Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and singing, with cymbals and stringed instruments and harps.*  
*Neh 12:28 And the sons of the singers gathered together from the countryside around Jerusalem, from the villages of the Netophathites, (1 Chr. 2:54; 9:16)*  
*Neh 12:29 from the house of Gilgal, and from the fields of Geba and Azmaveth; for the singers had built themselves villages all around Jerusalem.*  
*Neh 12:30 Then the priests and Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, the gates, and the wall.*  
*Neh 12:31 So I brought the leaders of Judah up on the wall, and appointed two large thanksgiving choirs. One went to the right hand on the wall toward the Refuse Gate.*  
*Neh 12:32 After them went Hoshai and half of the leaders of Judah,*  
*Neh 12:33 and Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam,*  
*Neh 12:34 Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah,*  
*Neh 12:35 and some of the priests' sons with trumpets—Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Michaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph, (6 generations!!!)*

*vs. 22-26* Levites during the reign of Darius the Persian. Nehemiah was instrumental in this to insure those claiming to be priests and Levites, actually were and that each could be backed up by their genealogy records. They were very conscientious of who served in the temple.

*vs. 27-29* Gathering the Levites for the dedication ceremony ....sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem: One of the most important jobs of the Levites was that that of leading the people in songs of worship and praise to God. *To celebrate the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and singing:* Mostly, they sang with musical instruments. *cymbals and stringed instruments and harps* are mentioned here. *Sons of the singers gathered together...* The singers had a close-knit bond, both by families and living arrangements. **Prior to dedicating the wall the people dedicated, committed themselves to the LORD!**

*v. 30* Purification.... priests and Levites purified themselves: They did this first. They could not effectively lead the people in worship of God unless they walked in purity before the Lord....purified the people: Next they cleansed the people as Biblically required, knowing that only a purified people could really worship and praise God. Now in the New Covenant, we purify ourselves by receiving the word of the New Testament: *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1Jn 1:9)* *The gates, and the wall:* Then the gates and walls were purified. Purified surrounding help us to consistently walk in purity.

*v. 31* *Appointed two large thanksgiving choirs:* The two great companies of them that gave thanks. He divided the people who were met together to praise God on this occasion into two companies. One went on the right hand upon the wall; that is, on the southern part of it toward the Refuse Gate, counter-clockwise, while the first choir is going clockwise, both meeting at the temple mount. **Remember the mocking of the enemy, it's only going to be effective if we allow it to be effective.**

*v. 24* Notice that *David* is mentioned 6 times in this chapter. Here he is referred to twice as "David the man of God". How wonderful to see his name here!  
*v. 27* It's important to note that the dedication of the wall needed to be preceded by the dedication of the people to the LORD! Music is always a part of a move of God! Many Welsh songs grew out of the 1901-2 Welsh Revival!  
*v. 28 Ch 2:50-51* These were the descendants of *Caleb: The sons of Hur, the firstborn of Ephrathah, were Shobal the father of Kirjath, [51] Salma the father of Bethlehem, and Hareph the father of Beth Gader. 1Ch 2:54 The sons of Salma were Bethlehem, the Netophathites, Atroth Beth Joab, half of the Manahethites, and the Zorites.*

*v. 31* Note that two *large thanksgiving choirs* will be standing and walking on the completed wall. We need to remember the mocking of *Sanballat* and *Tobiah* in trying to stop the work through mocking and ridicule! -- *Neh 4:3-4* Now *Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall."* [4] Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity! **But God is faithful. The wall is complete. When we experience mocking from the enemy, we need to remember that! How many times do you think Nehemiah was discouraged during the past couple of months? Don't listen to the enemy!! Mocking of our faith in God is only going to be effective, if we so allow. It's only going to be effective if we believe it above what the Word of God says! How well are we standing against mocking by the enemy?**  
*v. 35* What meticulous records! Six generation of priests with trumpets – singers, great musical ability!

# NEHEMIAH CHAPTERS 10-12 - "The People Who Sealed the Covenant; The Covenant That Was Sealed; The People Dwelling in Jerusalem; The People Dwelling Outside Jerusalem; The Priests and Levites; Nehemiah Dedicates the Wall; Temple Responsibilities

## OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente](#), cell #714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com) Click on "Bible Studies" on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

**Neh 12:36** and his brethren, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God. And Ezra the scribe went before them.

**Neh 12:37** By the Fountain Gate, in front of them, they went up the stairs of the City of David, on the stairway of the wall, beyond the house of David, as far as the Water Gate eastward.

**Neh 12:38** The other thanksgiving choir went the opposite way, and I was behind them with half of the people on the wall, going past the Tower of the Ovens as far as the Broad Wall,

**Neh 12:39** and above the Gate of Ephraim, above the Old Gate, above the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel, the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate; and they stopped by the Gate of the Prison.

**Neh 12:40** So the two thanksgiving choirs stood in the house of God, likewise I and the half of the rulers with me;

**Neh 12:41** and the priests, Eliakim, Maaseiah, Minjamin, Michaiah, Elieoenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets;

**Neh 12:42** also Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. The singers sang loudly with Jezrahiah the director.

**Neh 12:43** Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and the children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off.

### Service at the Temple

**Neh 12:44** And at the same time some were appointed over the rooms of the storehouse for the offerings, the firstfruits, and the tithes, to gather into them from the fields of the cities the portions specified by the Law for the priests and Levites; for Judah rejoiced over the priests and Levites who ministered.

**Neh 12:45** Both the singers and the gatekeepers kept the charge of their God and the charge of the purification, according to the command of David and Solomon his son.

**Neh 12:46** For in the days of David and Asaph of old there were chiefs of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.

**Neh 12:47** In the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah all Israel gave the portions for the singers and the gatekeepers, a portion for each day. They also consecrated holy things for the Levites, and the Levites consecrated them for the children of Aaron.

**v. 42** *The singers sang loudly.* They had to be heard, because as glorious as the instruments were, the people would follow the lead of the singers in worship.

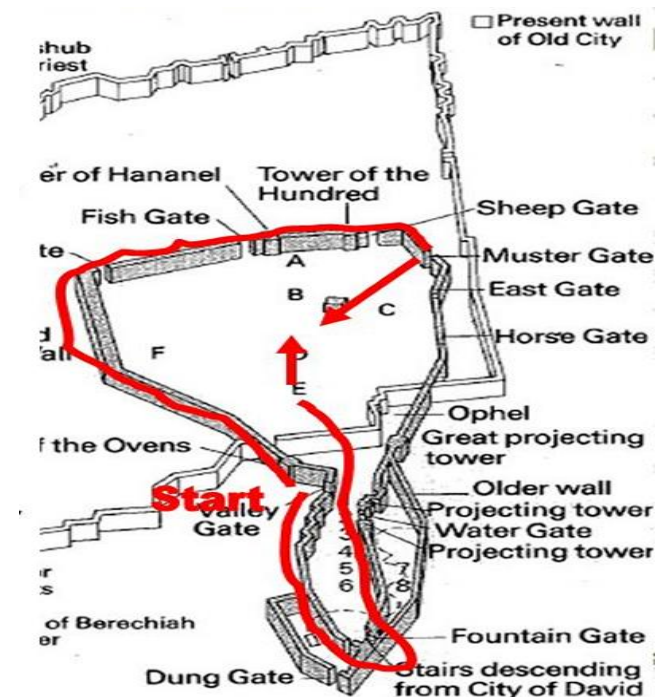
**v. 43** *God made them rejoice with great joy:* God did this when the choirs were assembled, God prompted them in being overwhelmed with joy and thanksgiving, considering all God had done. *The women and the children also rejoiced:* This wonderful experience of worship was for everyone. No one was to be excluded!. *The joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off:* Their worship was a testimony to others in such a way as what others heard was not so much the singing itself as the *joy*. We may be concerned about others hearing us sing; but what God wants to hear and what others should hear is not so much your singing, but your *joy*.

**v. 44** *Some were appointed over the rooms of the storehouse for the offerings:* It was a day of giving. People brought their offerings, firstfruits, tithes to the storehouse of the Levites, and they did it with joy because they enjoyed supporting the priests and Levites ministering on their behalf.

**v. 45** *Both the singers and the gatekeepers kept the charge of their God and the charge of the purification:* This was a day of purity. It was to be an ongoing concern, not a one-time ceremony. Singers and gatekeepers were put in charge.

**v. 46** *What a sound must have been made by the chiefs of the singers singing songs of praise and thanksgiving!*

**v. 47** *They also consecrated holy things for the Levites:* It was a day of consecration. Holy things were set apart for the Levites, speaking of the separation unto God.



**v. 43** God had made it! God had done it! He had given great reason for great rejoicing! He is always faithful to do that! The joy was heard afar off!!! Supernatural!

**v. 46** How often do we really sing with our whole hearts the songs of praise and thanksgiving to God?

### SUMMARY:

Remember the mocking of the enemy. Take any promise of God that we have right now, if are true to God's promise, one day we will stand on the promise of God and see His victory!! During the time of Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah records were beautifully kept and recorded of the wonderful ministry of the priests, Levites, the gatekeepers and the singers. All of their needs were being supplied by adequate portions as the Law of God required, in order to nurture the spiritual dynamic and the spiritual life of the children of Israel.



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