

The
BOOK OF NEHEMIAH **NEHEMIAH 1-2**

Nehemiah bears the bad conditions in Judah;

he confesses sin and prays the law of Moses

CHAPTER 1

1 The words of Nehemiah, the son of Hachaliah. And it was in the new moon, Chisleu, *the* twentieth year, as I was in Shushan, the palace,

2 And Hanani, one of my brothers, came, he and men of Judah, and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

3 And they said to me, The remnant who are left of the captivity there in the province are in great evil and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem *is* broken down, and its gates burned with fire.

4 And it was, when I attentively heard these words, that I sat down, and wept, and mourned days, and was fasting, and judged in prayer before the face of the God of the heavens,

5 And said, Oh please, now, Oh Jehovah God of the heavens, the great and terrible God, who hedges about covenant and mercy for them who love him and hedge about his commandments.

6 Let your ear now be attentive, and your eyes open, that you may attentively hear the prayer of your servant, which I judge in prayer before your face today, day and night over the children of Israel, your servants, and raise our hands confessing the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against

you; both I and my father's house have sinned.

7 Binding, we have bound ourselves against you, and have not hedged about the commandments, and the enactments, and the judgments, what you commanded your servant, Moses.

8 Remember, please, the word that you commanded your servant, Moses, saying, *If* you act treacherously, I will forcibly scatter you among the peoples; Deut 4:23-31

9 And if you turn to me, and hedge about my commandments, and do them, though there were of you thrown out to the extremity of the heavens, I will gather them from there, and will bring them to the place that I have chosen to cause my name to dwell there.

10 And they *are* your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand.

11 Oh Lord, please, let now your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who desire to fear your name, and prosper, please, your servant this day, and give him compassion before the face of this man. And I was the king's butler.

CHAPTER 2

1 And it was in the new moon, Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes, the king, wine *was* before his face, and I took

NEHEMIAH 2 *Nehemiah requests Artaxerxes leave to go to Judah, inspects Jerusalem at night*

up the wine, and gave *it* to the king. And I had not been sad before his face.

2 And the king said to me, Why is your face sad, and you are not worn *out*? This is nothing but sorrow of heart. And I was very much afraid,

3 And said to the king, Let the king live forever; why should not my face be evil, when the city, the house of my fathers' sepulchers, is dried up, and its gates are consumed with fire?

4 And the king said to me, For what *is it* that you seek? And I judged in prayer to the God of the heavens.

5 And I said to the king, If it is good to the king, and if your servant is good before your face, that you would send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' sepulchers, and I will build it.

6 And the king said to me (and the queen was sitting by him), For how long will your walk be? And when will you return? And it was good to the king to send me, and I gave him a fixed time.

7 And I said to the king, If it is good to the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the region across the river, that they may cross me over until I come into Judah;

8 And a letter to Asaph, the one who hedges about the park, that of the king, that he may give me timber to join the gates of the palace which *is* to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into.

798

And the king gave me according to the good hand of my God upon me.

9 And I came to the governors of the region across the river, and gave them the king's letters. And the king had sent chief rulers of the resources and horsemen with me.

10 And Sanballat, the Horonite, and Tobiah, the servant, the Ammonite, heard it attentively, and it was evil to them, exceedingly evil that there was come a man to seek the good of the children of Israel.

11 And I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days.

12 And I rose in the night, I and a few men with me, and I did not cause to stand out boldly to a man what my God had given in my heart to do at Jerusalem; no animal *was* with me, except the animal that I rode upon.

13 And I went out by night by the gate of the ravine, and before the face of the dragon fountain, and to the dung gate, and scrutinized the walls of Jerusalem, those which were broken down, and its gates were consumed with fire.

14 And I crossed over to the gate of the fountain, and to the king's reservoir, and there was no place for the animal under me to cross over.

15 And I went up in the night by the stream, and was scrutinizing the wall, and turned back, and entered by the gate of the ravine, and returned.

16 And the governors did not know by seeing where I walked, or what I did; and I had not as yet caused it to stand out boldly to the Jews, and to the priests, and to the nobles, and to the governors, and to those left who did the work.

17 And I said to them, You see the evil that we *are* in, how Jerusalem is dried up, and its gates are burned with fire; walk, and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, and we will not continue to be a reproach.

18 And I caused to stand out boldly to them of the hand of my God which was good upon me, and also the king's words that he had said to me. And they said, Let us rise up, and build. And they strengthened their hands for good.

19 And Sanballat, the Horonite, and Tobiah, the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem, the Arabian, attentively heard, and they mocked us, and despised us, and said, What word *is* this that you do? Will you rebel against the king?

20 And I turned back to them, and said to them, The God of the heavens will prosper us; and we, his servants, will rise and build, and to you *is* no allotment, nor right, nor memorial in Jerusalem.

CHAPTER 3

1 And Eliashib, the great priest, rose with his brothers, the priests, and they built the flock animal gate; they sanctified it, and stood up its doors; and they sanctified it to the tower of Meah, to

the tower of Hananeel.

2 And the men of Jericho built at his hand. And Zaccur, the son of Imri, built at their hand.

3 And the sons of Hassenaah built the fish gate; they joined its timbers, and stood up its doors, its bolts, and its bars.

4 And at their hand, Meremoth, the son of Urijah, the son of Koz, strengthened *the wall*. And at their hand Meshullam, the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabeel, strengthened *the wall*. And at their hand, Zadok, the son of Baana, strengthened *the wall*.

5 And at their hand, the Tekoites strengthened *the wall*, and their lordly leaders did not bring their necks to the work of their Lord.

6 And the gate of Jeshanah was strengthened by Jehoiada, the son of Paseah, and Meshullam, the son of Besodeiah; they joined its timbers, and stood up its doors, and its bolts, and its bars.

7 And at their hand, Melatiah, the Gibeonite, and Jadon, the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon, and of Mizpah, strengthened *the wall* to the throne of the governor of the region across the river.

8 At his hand, Uzziel, the son of Harhaiah, of the goldsmiths, strengthened *the wall*. And at his hand, Hananiah, the son of one of the perfumers, strengthened *the wall*, and they left the broad wall of Jerusalem.

NEHEMIAH 3

The names and order of those who build the wall

9 And at their hand, Rephaiah, the son of Hur, the chief ruler of the half circuit of Jerusalem, strengthened *the wall*.

10 And at their hand, Jedaiah, the son of Harumaph, strengthened *the wall*, even in front of his house. And at his hand, Hattush, the son of Hashabniah, strengthened *the wall*.

11 Malchijah, the son of Harim, and Hashub, the son of Pahath Moab, strengthened the second portion, and the tower of the furnaces.

12 And at his hand, Shallum the son of Halohesh, the chief ruler of the half circuit of Jerusalem, he and his daughters strengthened *the wall*.

13 The gate of the ravine, Hanun, and the inhabitants of Zanoah, strengthened; they built it, and stood up its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and a thousand cubits on the wall to the dung gate.

14 And the dung gate was strengthened by Malchiah, the son of Rechab, the chief ruler of circuit of Beth hac Kerem; he built it, and stood up its doors, its bolts, and its bars.

15 And Shallun, the son of Colhozeh, the chief ruler of circuit of Mizpah, strengthened the gate of the fountain; he built it, and covered it, and stood up its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and the wall of the reservoir of Siloah by the king's garden, and to the stairs that go down from the city of David.

800

16 After him, Nehemiah, the son of Azbuk, the chief ruler of the half circuit of Beth Zur, to in front of the sepulchers of David, and to the reservoir that was made, and to the house of the mighty.

17 After him, the Levites, Rehum, the son of Bani, strengthened *the wall*. At his hand, Hashabiah, the chief ruler of the half circuit of Keilah, strengthened *the wall* in his circuit.

18 After him, their brothers, Bavai, the son of Henadad, the chief ruler of the half circuit of Keilah, strengthened *the wall*.

19 And at his hand, Ezer, the son of Jeshua, the chief ruler of Mizpah, strengthened another extension in front of the going up to the armory at the turning of *the wall*.

20 After him, Baruch, the son of Zabbai with burning zeal strengthened another extension, from the turning of *the wall* to the door of the house of the great priest Eliashib.

21 After him, Meremoth, the son of Urijah, the son of Koz, strengthened another extension, from the door of the house of Eliashib even to the completion of the house of Eliashib.

22 And after him, the priests, the men of the circuit of Jordan, strengthened *the wall*.

23 After him, Benjamin and Hashub strengthened *the wall* in front of their house. After him, Azariah, the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, strengthened *the wall* beside his house.

The names and order of those who build; the enemies scoff, Nehemiah prays and builds **NEHEMIAH 4**

24 After him, Binnui, the son of Henadad, strengthened *another* extension, from the house of Azariah to the turning of the wall, even to the corner.

25 Palal, the son of Uzai, strengthened *the wall* in front of the turning *of the wall* and the tower which goes out from the king's supreme house that *was* by the court of the prison. After him, Pedaiah, the son of Parosh.

26 And the servants given to the temple were dwelling in Ophel to in front of the water gate toward the sunrise and the tower that goes out.

27 After them, the Tekoites strengthened another extension, in front of the great tower that goes out, even to the wall of Ophel.

28 From above the horse gate the priests strengthened *the wall*, each man in front of his house.

29 After them, Zadok, the son of Immer, strengthened *the wall* in front of his house. And after him, Shemaiah, the son of Shechaniah, the one who hedged about the gate toward the sunrise, strengthened *the wall*.

30 After him, Hananiah, the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, strengthened another extension *of the wall*. After him, Meshullam, the son of Berechiah, strengthened *the wall* in front of his room.

31 After him, Malchiah, the goldsmith's son, strengthened *the wall* to the house of the servants given to the temple, and of the trav-

eling merchants, in front of the gate Miphkad, and to the stairway at the corner.

32 And between the stairway at the corner to the flock animal gate the goldsmiths and the traveling merchants strengthened *the wall*.

CHAPTER 4

1 And it was, that Sanballat attentively heard that we built the wall, and he burned with anger, and increased being provoked, and mocked against the Jews.

2 And he said before the face of his brothers, and the resources of Samaria, and said, What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they set themselves free? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the dust, and they are burned?

3 And Tobiah, the Ammonite, *was* beside him, and he said, Even that which they build, if a fox goes up, he shall break down their stone wall.

4 Attentively hear, Oh our God, because we are despised, and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them as spoil in the land of captivity;

5 And do not cover over their iniquity, and do not rub out their sin from before your face. because they have provoked you in front of the builders.

6 And we built the wall, and all the wall was joined together to the middle, and the people had a heart to work.

NEHEMIAH 4 *The oppressors; Nehemiah: Do not fear; half of Jews hold weapons, and half build*

7 And it was, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites attentively heard that the walls of Jerusalem were completely up, that the breaks began to be stopped, then they burned with exceeding anger,

8 And all of them together conspired to come to devour against Jerusalem, and do it injury.

9 And we judged in prayer to our God, and stood a guard against them day and night before their face.

10 And Judah said, The power of the bearers of burdens wavers, and *there is* much dust; and we are not able to build the wall.

11 And our oppressors said, They shall not know and not see until we come in the midst among them, and fatally strike them, and cause the work to cease.

12 And it was, that when the Jews who dwelt near them came, they said to us ten strokes, Return to us from all places where you *are*.¹²

13 And I stood in the lower places behind the wall; I also stood the people on the higher places exposed to the sun after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

14 And I saw, and rose up, and said to the nobles, and to the governors, and to the rest of the people, Do not fear their face; the Lord *is* great and terrible! Remember, and devour for your brothers, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

15 And it was, when those hating us attentively heard that it was known to us by seeing, and God had broken up their counsel, that we returned, all of us, to the wall, every man to his work.

16 And it was from that day, the half of my servants did the work, and half of them strengthened themselves both with the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the body armor; and the chief rulers *were* behind all the house of Judah.

17 They who built on the wall, and they who lifted loads, *with* those who loaded, with one of his hands did the work, and with one strengthened himself with a missile.

18 And the builders, every man had his sword girded on his loins, and built. And he that blew the trumpet *was* by me.

19 And I said to the nobles, and to the governors, and to the rest of the people, The work is increased, and broad, and we are separated upon the wall, one man far from his brother.

20 In whatever place you attentively hear the sound of the trumpet, gather together to us there; our God shall devour for us.

¹² 4:12 Apparently what this verse means is that the Jews of the outlying towns and villages repeatedly came to Jerusalem to warn them to leave Jerusalem, and go with them to avoid the threatened danger of attack.

21 And we did the work, and half of them strengthened themselves with the spears from the rising of the dawn until the stars came out.

22 Likewise at that time I said to the people, Let every man and his servant lodge within Jerusalem, and they shall be a guard to us by the night, and work by the day.

23 And neither I, nor my brothers, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard who *were* behind me, none of us stripped off our clothes; to every man *were* his missile *and* his water.

CHAPTER 5

1 And there was a great scream of the people and of their wives against their brothers, the Jews.

2 For there were those who said, We, our sons and our daughters, *are* many, and we take up grain that we may eat and live.

3 And there were those who said, We have given our fields, vineyards, and houses as security that we might take grain because of the famine.

4 And there were those who said, We have obligated our fields and vineyards for silver for the king's tribute.

5 And now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children as their children, and lo, we tread down our sons and our daughters as servants, and of our daughters are treaded down; and our fields and vineyards *are* not in our hand; *they are to* others.

6 And I burned with exceeding anger when I attentively heard their outcry and these words.

7 And I ascended the throne with heart, and I rebuked the nobles and the governors, and said to them, You obligate every man to his brother on interest. And I gave a great assembly against them.

8 And I said to them, We according to our ability have bought our brothers, the Jews, who were sold to the peoples; and will you also sell your brothers, and will they be sold to us? And they scratched *their head*, and there was nothing to speak.

9 And I said, The word *is* not good that you do; should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the peoples who hate us?

10 I also and my brothers and my servants might obligate them on interest for silver and grain; please, let us leave off this obligating on interest. *Exo 22:25*

11 Return to them now, today, their fields, their vineyards, their oliveyards, and their houses, and the hundredth¹¹ part of the silver, and of the grain, the wine, and the oil, that you collected as interest from them.

¹¹ **5:11 hundredth part, meah.** The rate of interest charged was 1% per month, which was a hundredth part of the principal that was loaned, which was 12% annually. Nehemiah commanded every lender to release every man's mortgage, and to return the 1% interest per month he had already taken, because according to God's Law, Exo 22:25, you must not lend to your poor brother on interest. You must let the poor brother have the necessities of life without interest.

NEHEMIAH 6 *Nehemiah rebukes nobles for taking interest, pays his own expenses; the wall finished*

12 And they said, We will return, and will seek nothing from them; we will do uprightly what you say. And I called the priests, and made them swear that they would do this they had spoken.

13 Also I shook out my lap, and said, Just so God will shake out every man from his house and from his work who does not rise to his word; thus he shall be shaken out and emptied. And all the congregation said, Amen, and boasted in Jehovah. And the people did according to this word.

14 Also from the day that I was commanded to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes, the king, twelve years, I and my brothers have not eaten the food of the governor.

15 And the former governors who *were* before me had been heavy over the people, and had taken from them food and wine, besides forty shekels of silver; also their servants ruled over the people; and I did not do so, facing the fear of God.

16 And also I strengthened the work of this wall, and we did not buy a field; and all my servants gathered themselves there to the work.

17 And a hundred and fifty men of the Jews, and governors, and those who came to us from among the peoples who *are* about us, *were* at my table.

18 And what was done for one day was one ox and six choice flock animals; also fowls were done for me, and *each* ten days a supply of all sorts of wine; and for this I did not seek food from the governor, because the work was heavy upon this people.

19 Remember me, my God, for good, for all that I have done for this people.

CHAPTER 6

1 And it was, Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem, the Arabian, and what is left of those who hate us, attentively heard that I had built the wall, and there was no break left in it (though at that time I had not stood up the doors on the gates),

2 And Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, Walk, let us meet by appointment in the villages on the plain of Ono. And they calculated a plot to do me evil.

3 And I sent messengers to them, saying, I am doing a great work, and I am not able to come down; why should the work cease while I slack off and come down to you?

4 And they sent this word to me four times, and I returned this word to them.

5 And Sanballat sent this word by his servant to me the fifth time with an open letter in his hand;

6 Written in it, It is heard among the peoples, and Gashmu says, you and the Jews calculated a plot to rebel; therefore you

build the wall, and according to these words that you breathe to be their king.

7 And also you have stood prophets to call out over you at Jerusalem, saying, A king *is* in Judah! And now the king shall attentively hear these words. And now, walk, and let us consult together.

8 And I sent to him, saying, These words do not exist as you say, but you invent them out of your own heart,

9 Because they all made us afraid, saying, They will slack off their hands from the work, and it shall not be done. And now, strengthen my hands!

10 And I came to the house of Shemaiah, the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabeel, who was shut up, and he said, Let us meet by appointment in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple, because they will come to strike you fatally; and in the night they will come to strike you fatally.

11 And I said, Should such a man as I flee? And who as I would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in.

12 And lo, I recognized that God had not sent him, because he spoke this prophecy against me, and Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

13 He was hired so that I should be afraid, and do thus, and sin, and there would be to them an evil report, that they could reproach me.

14 My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and also on the prophetess, Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, who would cause me to be in fear.

15 And the wall was completed in the twenty-fifth day of the new moon, Elul, in fifty-two days.

16 And it was, that all those hating us attentively heard, and all the peoples who *were* around us saw, and they fell exceedingly in their own eyes; and they knew by seeing that this work was done by our God.

17 Also in those days the nobles of Judah walked many letters to Tobiah, and *letters* from Tobiah came to them.

18 Because many in Judah *became* lords of oath to him, because he *was* the son in law of Shechaniah, the son of Arah; and his son, Johanan, had taken the daughter of Meshullam, the son of Berechiah.

19 Also they said his good *deeds* before my face, and my words were going out to him. Tobiah sent letters to put me in fear.

CHAPTER 7

1 And it was, that the wall was built, and I had stood up the doors, and the porters, and the singers, and the Levites were visited *in their place*,

2 And I commanded my brother, Hanani, and Hananiah, the chief ruler of the palace, over Jerusalem, because he was a

NEHEMIAH 7*Porters positioned; the people enrolled by genealogy*

faithful man, and feared God above many.

3 And I said to them, Do not let the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot; and while they are standing, let them shut the doors, and hold them; and stand guards from the inhabitants of Jerusalem, every man in his watch, and every man in front of his house.

4 And the city *was* broad on both hands, and great, and the people few in its midst, and the houses *were* not built.

5 And my God gave into my heart to gather together the nobles, and the governors, and the people, to be enrolled by genealogy. And I found a book of the genealogy of them who came up at the first, and found written in it,

6 These *are* the children of the province, who went up out of the captivity, of those in the exile, whom Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had transported as stripped captives, and returned to Jerusalem and to Judah, every man to his city,

7 Those coming with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah; The number of the men of the people of Israel:

8 The children of Parosh: two thousand, a hundred *and* seventy-two.

9 The children of Shephatiah: three hundred and seventy-two.

806

10 The children of Arah: six hundred and fifty-two.

11 The children of Pahath Moab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab: two thousand, eight hundred and eighteen.

12 The children of Elam: a thousand, two hundred and fifty-four.

13 The children of Zattu: eight hundred and forty-five.

14 The children of Zaccai: seven hundred and sixty.

15 The children of Binnui: six hundred and forty-eight.

16 The children of Bebai: six hundred and twenty-eight.

17 The children of Azgad: two thousand, three hundred and twenty-two.

18 The children of Adonikam: six hundred and sixty-seven.

19 The children of Bigvai: two thousand and sixty-seven.

20 The children of Adin: six hundred and fifty-five.

21 The children of Ater of Hezekiah: ninety-eight.

22 The children of Hashum: three hundred and twenty-eight.

23 The children of Bezai: three hundred and twenty-four.

24 The children of Hariph: a hundred and twelve.

25 The children of Gibeon: ninety-five.

26 The men of Beth Lehem and Netophah: a hundred and eighty-eight.

27 The men of Anathoth: a hundred and twenty-eight.

28 The men of Beth Azmaveth: forty-two.

29 The men of Kirjath Jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth: seven hundred and forty-three.

30 The men of Ramah and Geba: six hundred and twenty-one.

31 The men of Michmas: a hundred and twenty-two.

32 The men of Bethel and Ai: a hundred and twenty-three.

33 The men of the other Nebo: fifty-two.

34 The children of the other Elam: a thousand, two hundred and fifty-four.

35 The children of Harim: three hundred and twenty.

36 The children of Jericho: three hundred and forty-five.

37 The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono: seven hundred and twenty-one.

38 The children of Senaah: three thousand, nine hundred and thirty.

39 The priests: the children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua: nine hundred and seventy-three.

40 The children of Immer: a thousand and fifty-two.

41 The children of Pashur: a thousand, two hundred and forty-seven.

42 The children of Harim: a thousand and seventeen.

43 The Levites: the children of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, and of the children of Hodevah: seventy-four.

44 The singers: the children of Asaph: a hundred and forty-eight.

45 The porters: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai: a hundred and thirty-eight.

46 The servants given to the temple: the children of Ziha, the children of Hashupha, the children of Tabbaoth,

47 The children of Keros, the children of Sia, the children of Padon,

48 The children of Lebana, the children of Hagaba, the children of Shalmai,

49 The children of Hanan, the children of Giddel, the children of Gahar,

50 The children of Reaiah, the children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda,

51 The children of Gazzam, the children of Uzza, the children of Phaseah,

52 The children of Besai, the children of Meunim, the children of Nephishesim,

53 The children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur,

54 The children of Bazlith, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha,

55 The children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Tamah,

56 The children of Neziah, the children of Hatipha.

57 The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Perida,

NEHEMIAH 8 *The people enrolled by genealogy; the genealogy of some priests not found; gifts*

58 The children of Jaala, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel,

59 The children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Amon.

60 All the servants given to the temple and the children of Solomon's servants *were* three hundred and ninety-two.

61 And these *were* they who went up from Telmelah, Telharesha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer, and they were not able to cause to stand out boldly their father's house and their seed if they *were* of Israel.

62 The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda: six hundred and forty-two.

63 And of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai, who took of the daughters of Barzillai, the Gileadite, as wife, and was called after their name.

64 These searched for their book among those enrolled by genealogy, and were not able to find *it*, and they were put out of the priesthood.

65 And the governor said to them that they should not eat of the most holy things until there stands a priest with Urim and Thummim. Note Ezr 2:63 Note Exo 28:30

66 The whole congregation together *were* forty-two thousand, three hundred and sixty,

67 Separate from their manservants and their maidservants, who *were* seven thousand,
808

three hundred and thirty-seven, and to them *were* two hundred and forty-five singing men and singing women.

68 Their horses, seven hundred and thirty-six; their mules, two hundred and forty-five:

69 Camels, four hundred and thirty-five; donkeys, six thousand, seven hundred and twenty.

70 And some of the heads of the fathers gave to the work. The governor gave to the treasury a thousand drachmas of gold, fifty basins, five hundred and thirty priests' garments.

71 And some of the heads of the fathers gave to the treasury of the work twenty thousand drachmas of gold, and two thousand, two hundred measures of silver.

72 And that which the rest of the people gave was twenty thousand drachmas of gold, and two thousand measures of silver, and sixty-seven priests' garments.

73 And the priests, and the Levites, and the porters, and the singers, and some of the people, and the servants given to the temple, and all Israel, dwelt in their cities; and the seventh new moon was touched, and the children of Israel *were* in their cities.

CHAPTER 8

1 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street facing the water gate, and they said to Ezra, the scribe, to bring the book of the law of Moses which Jehovah

had commanded to Israel.

2 And Ezra, the priest, brought the law before the congregation of men and women and all who could attentively hear with understanding upon day one of the seventh new moon.

3 And he called out from it facing the street that faced the water gate from the light until midday in front of the men, and the women, and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people *were* to the book of the law.

4 And Ezra, the scribe, stood upon a platform of wood which they had made for the word; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, *and* Meshullam.

5 And Ezra opened the book in the eyes of all the people (because he was above all the people), and when he opened it all the people stood up;

6 And Ezra blessed Jehovah, the great God, and all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with raising their hands; and they bowed, and prostrated themselves to Jehovah, their nostrils to the ground.

7 And Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law; and

the people stood upon their places.

8 And they called out the book of the law of God distinctly, and put it with intelligent success, and caused them to understand what was called out.

9 And Nehemiah, who *is* the governor, and Ezra, the priest, the scribe, and the Levites who caused the people to understand, said to all the people, This day *is* holy to Jehovah, your God; do not mourn, and do not weep, because all the people wept when they attentively heard the words of the law.

10 And he said to them, Walk, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions to them for whom nothing is set up, because today *is* holy to our Lord; and do not toil with pain, because rejoicing in Jehovah *is* your fortress.

11 And the Levites quieted all the people, saying, Be quiet, because the day *is* holy, and do not labor in pain.

12 And all the people walked to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great happiness, because they had understood the words that were made known to them.

13 And on the second day were gathered together the heads of the fathers of all the people, the priests, and the Levites, to Ezra, the scribe, and to be intelligently successful in the words of the law.

14 And they found written in the law which Jehovah had commanded by the hand of Moses,

NEHEMIAH 9 *They celebrate the feast of booths; they separate themselves from unbelievers; praise*

that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh new moon; Lev 23:34; Deut 16:13

15 And that they should hear attentively, and cross over the call in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go out to the mount, and bring in olive branches, and wild olive branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of dense trees, to make booths, as it is written.

16 And the people went out, and brought, and made themselves booths, every man upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim.

17 And all the congregation of them who returned out of the exile made booths, and sat under the booths, because since the days of Joshua, the son of Nun, to that day the children of Israel had not done so; and there was exceeding great gladness.

18 And day by day from the first day to the last day he called out the book of the law of God, and they did the feast seven days, and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly according to the judged decree.

CHAPTER 9

1 And in the twenty-fourth day of this new moon the children of Israel were gathered together with fasting, and with sackcloths, and dirt upon them.

2 And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all children of strangers, and stood and raised their hands, confessing their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers.

3 And they rose upon their place, and called out the book of the law of Jehovah, their God, a fourth of the day; and a fourth they raised their hands in confession, and prostrated themselves to Jehovah, their God.

4 And the Levites, Jeshua, and Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani stood upon the ascent, and cried with a great voice to Jehovah, their God.

5 And the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah said, Rise! Bless Jehovah, your God, forever and ever; and blessed is your heavy glorious name which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

6 You *are* he, Jehovah alone; you have made the heavens, the heaven of heavens, and all their host, the earth, and all that *is* upon it, the seas, and all that is in them, and you cause them all to live; and the host of the heavens prostrate themselves to you.

7 You *are* he, Jehovah, the God who chose Abram, and brought him out, out of Ur of the Chaldees, and put to him the name of Abraham;

8 And brought forth his heart faithful before your face, and cut a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites, and the Girgashites, to give it to his seed, and have caused your words to rise because you *are* righteous;

9 And saw the oppression of our fathers in Egypt, and attentively heard their cry by the Red Sea;

10 And gave signs and miracles upon Pharaoh, and on all his servants, and on all the people of his land, because you knew by seeing that they boiled over against them. And you made for yourself a name, as *it is* this day.

11 And you tore open the sea before their face, and they crossed over the midst of the sea on the dry ground; and you threw those pursuing them into the deep, as a stone into forceful waters.

12 And you led them in the day by a column of cloud, and in the night by a column of fire, to give them light in the way where they should walk.

13 And you descended upon Mount Sinai, and spoke with them from the heavens, and gave them right judgments, and true laws, good enactments, and commandments;

14 And made known to them your holy Sabbath, and commanded them commandments, enactments, and laws, by the hand of Moses, your servant;

15 And gave them food from the heavens for their hunger, and brought forth water for them out of the lofty rock for their thirst, and said to them that they should go in to possess the land which you raised your hand to give them.

16 And they and our fathers boiled over, and hardened their necks, and did not attentively hear your commandments,

17 And refused to attentively hear, and did not remember your wonders that you did with them; and hardened their necks, and in their rebellion gave themselves a head to return to their bondage; and you *are* a God ready to pardon, gracious, and compassionate, *waiting* long *before* your nostrils burn, and of great mercy, and did not forsake them.

18 Also, when they had made themselves a molten calf, and said, This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt, and made great scorn,

19 Yet you in your great compassion did not forsake them in the desert; the column of the cloud did not depart from above them by day to lead them in the way, and the column of fire by night to be their light and the way where they should walk in it.

20 You gave also your good Spirit to make them intelligently successful, and did not withhold your manna from their mouth, and gave them water for their thirst.

NEHEMIAH 9 *They rehearse God's blessings upon and revelations to Israel and Israel's rebellion*

21 And forty years you sustained them in the desert; they lacked nothing; their clothes did not wear out, and their feet did not swell.

22 And you gave them kingdoms, and peoples, and apportioned to them by mouths; and they possessed the land of Sihon, and the land of the king of Heshbon, and the land of Og, king of Bashan.

23 And you multiplied their children as the stars of the heavens, and brought them into the land, of which you had said to their fathers, that they should go in to possess.

24 And the children went in, and possessed the land, and you caused the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, to bend their knees before their face, and gave them into their hands, and their kings, and the people of the land, to do with them as they pleased.

25 And they captured fortified cities, and robust soil, and possessed houses full of all good, wells dug, vineyards, and oliveyards, and fruit trees in abundance; and they ate, and were filled, and shined with fat, and delighted themselves in your great goodness.

26 And they were bitter, and rebelled against you, and threw your law behind their backs, and fatally struck your prophets, who testified against them to turn them back to you, and they did great scorn.

27 And you gave them into the hand of their oppressors, and they distressed them; and in the time of their distress, they cried to you, and you attentively heard from the heavens; and according to your great compassion you gave them saviors, and they saved them out of the hand of their oppressors.

28 And after *there was* rest to them, they turned back to do evil before your face, and you forsook them into the hand of those hating them, and they treaded over them; and they turned back, and cried to you, and you attentively heard them from the heavens; and you snatched them out many times according to your compassions;

29 And testified against them to turn them back to your law, and they boiled over, and did not attentively hear your commandments, and sinned against your judgments (which if a man shall do, he shall live in them), and gave the shoulder to turn away, and hardened their neck, and would not attentively hear.

30 And many years you drew them, and testified against them by your Spirit by the hand of your prophets, and they would not broaden their ear; and you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.

31 And you did not end them for your great compassions, and did not forsake them, because you are a gracious and compassionate God.

32 And now, our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who hedges about the covenant and mercy, do not let all the distress seem little before your face that has come upon us, on our kings, on our chief rulers, and on our priests, and on our prophets, and on our fathers, and on all your people, since the day of the kings of Assyria to this day.

33 And you *are* righteous over all that is brought upon us, because you have done truth, but we have done wrong;

34 And our kings, our chief rulers, our priests, and our fathers, have not done your law, and have not pricked up our ears to your commandments and your testimonies which you testified against them.

35 And they have not served you in their kingdom, and in your great goodness that you gave them, and in the broad and robust land which you gave before their face, and they have not turned back from their wicked acts.

36 Behold, we *are* servants today, and the land that you gave to our fathers to eat its fruit and its good, behold, we *are* servants upon it;

37 And it increases much income to the kings whom you have given over us because of our sins, and they rule over our bodies and over our animals at their pleasure, and we *are* in great distress.

38 And because of all this we cut a sure covenant, and write it, and we *set our* seal, our chief rulers, Levites, priests.

CHAPTER 10

1 And those who sealed *were*: Nehemiah, the governor, the son of Hachaliah, and Zidkijah,

2 Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah,

3 Pashur, Amariah, Malchijah,

4 Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch,

5 Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah,

6 Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch,

7 Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin,

8 Maaziah, Bilgai, Shemaiah; these *were* the priests.

9 And the Levites: and Jeshua, the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel;

10 And their brothers: Shebaniah, Hodijah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan,

11 Micha, Rehob, Hashabiah,

12 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah,

13 Hodijah, Bani, Beninu.

14 The heads of the people: Parosh, Pahath Moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani,

15 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai,

16 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin,

17 Ater, Hizkijah, Azzur,

18 Hodijah, Hashum, Bezai,

19 Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai,

NEHEMIAH 10 *They enter into an oath to walk in God's law and not intermarry with unbelievers*

20 Magpiash, Meshullam,
Hezir,

21 Meshezabeel, Zadok,
Jaddua,

22 Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah,

23 Hoshea, Hananiah,
Hashub,

24 Hallohesh, Pileha,
Shobek,

25 Rehum, Hashabnah,
Maaseiah,

26 And Ahijah, Hanan,
Anan,

27 Malluch, Harim, Baanah.

28 And the rest of the
people, the priests, the Levites,
the porters, those given as sing-
ers, those given as temple ser-
vants, 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, all those know-
ing understanding,

29 They fastened upon their
brothers, their nobles, and en-
tered into a curse, and into an
oath, to walk in God's law, which
was given by the hand of Moses,
the servant of God, and to hedge
about and do all the command-
ments of Jehovah, our Lord, and
his judgments and his enactments;

30 And that we would not
give our daughters to the people
of the land, and would not take
their daughters for our sons;

31 And the people of the
land, those bringing merchandise
and any grain on the Sabbath day
to sell, we would not take it from
them on the Sabbath or on the
holy day, and that we would
thrust away the seventh year, and

814

the collection of interest on ev-
ery hand.

32 Also we stood command-
ments upon us, to give over a
third of a shekel yearly for the
service of the house of our God,

33 For the arranged bread,³³
and for the continual food offer-
ing, and for the continual burnt
offering, of the Sabbaths, of the
new moons, for the appointed
feasts, and for the holy things, and
for the sin offerings to cover for
Israel, and for all the work of the
house of our God.

34 And we let the lots fall to
the priests, the Levites, and the
people, for the wood offering, to
bring it into the house of our God,
after the houses of our fathers,
at times fixed year by year, to
burn upon the altar of Jehovah,
our God, as it is written in the
law;

35 And to bring the
firstfruits of our soil, and the
firstfruits of all fruit of all trees,
year by year, to the house of Je-
hovah;

36 Also the firstborn of our
sons, and of our animals, as it is
written in the law, and the first-
borns of our herds, and of our
flocks, to bring to the house of

³³ 10:33 arranged bread, *lechem*, bread,
or food, *maareketh*, arrangement. Translated
shewbread in KJV. Called *lechem paaniym*,
bread of *his* face, in Exo 25:30. Both terms
refer to the bread that was arranged on the
table in the tabernacle/temple, showing that
the face of God is the daily nourishment of
our entire spirit, soul, and body, a picture of
keeping the face of God before us to will the
will of God, as Jesus said, **I, what I have seen
alongside of my Father, I speak, and you
therefore, what you have seen alongside
of your father, you do**, John 8:38. The bread
of His face refers to keeping His face ever
before us to do His will and His will alone.

They vow to walk in God's laws of the firstborn, tithes, etc.; those who lived in Jerusalem **NEHEMIAH 11**

our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God;

37 And that we should bring the first of our meal, and our offerings, and the fruit of all trees, of fresh grape juice, and of oil, to the priests, to the rooms of the house of our God; and the tithes of our soil to the Levites, and they, the Levites, should take the tithes in all the cities of our work.

38 And the priest, the son of Aaron, shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes; and the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes to the house of our God, to the rooms, into the treasure house;

39 Because the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the grain, of the fresh grape juice, and the oil to the rooms where the vessels of the sanctuary *are*, and the priests who minister, and the porters, and the singers, and we will not forsake the house of our God.

CHAPTER 11

1 And the chief rulers of the people dwelt at Jerusalem, and the rest of the people let lots fall to bring one out of ten to dwell in Jerusalem, the holy city, and nine hands to dwell in other cities.

2 And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem.

3 And these are the heads of the province who dwelt in Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah; every man dwelt in his possession in their cities: Israel, the

priests, and the Levites, and the servants given to the temple, and the children of Solomon's servants.

4 And at Jerusalem dwelt of the children of Judah, and of the children of Benjamin. Of the children of Judah: Athaiah, the son of Uziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalaleel, of the children of Perez;

5 And Maaseiah, the son of Baruch, the son of Colhozeh, the son of Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, the son of Shiloni.

6 All the sons of Perez who dwelt at Jerusalem *were* four hundred and sixty-eight men of resources.

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 Jesaiah.

8 And after him Gabbai, Sallai, nine hundred and twenty-eight.

9 And Joel, the son of Zichri, *was* the visitor over them, and Judah, the son of Senuah, *was* second over the city.

10 Of the priests: Jedaiah, the son of Joiarib, Jachin.

11 Seraiah, the son of Hilkiyah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, *was* the commander of the house of God.

NEHEMIAH 11*The placing and responsibilities of the priests and Levites*

12 And their brothers 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 Pashur, the son of Malchiah,

13 And his brothers, heads of the fathers, two hundred and forty-two; and Amashai, the son of Azareel, the son of Ahasai, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer,

14 And their brothers, mighty men of resources, a hundred and twenty-eight; and the one visiting over them was Zabdiel, the son of one of the greats.

15 And of the Levites: Shemaiah, the son of Hashub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni;

16 And Shabbethai, and Jozabad, of the heads of the Levites, visited over the outside work of the house of God.

17 And Mattaniah, the son of Micha, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, was the head to begin to raise their hands in prayer; and Bakbukiah, the second among his brothers, and Abda, the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun.

18 All the Levites in the holy city *were* two hundred and eighty-four.

19 And the porters, Akkub, Talmon, and their brothers who hedged about the gates *were* a hundred and seventy-two.

20 And the rest of Israel, of the priests, the Levites, *were* in all the cities of Judah, every man in his inheritance.

816

21 And the servants given to the temple dwelt in Ophel, and Ziha, and Gispa were over the servants given to the temple.

22 And the one visiting over 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 were in front of the ministry of the house of God,

23 Because the king's commandment concerning them *was* that a fixed portion *was* for the singers, a word day by day.

24 And Pethahiah, the son of Meshezabeel, of the children of Zerah, the son of Judah, *was* at the king's hand in all words concerning the people.

25 And for the towns with their fields, some of the children of Judah dwelt at Kirjath Arba and in its villages, and at Dibon and in its villages, and at Jekabzeel and in its villages,

26 And at Jeshua, and at Moladah, and at Beth Phelet,

27 And at Hazar Shual, and at Beer Sheba and in its villages,

28 And at Ziklag, and at Mekonah and in its villages,

29 And at Enrimmon, and at Zareah, and at Jarmuth,

30 Zanoah, Adullam and in their villages, at Lachish and its fields, at Azekah and in its villages. And they dwelt from Beer Sheba to the valley of Hinnom.

31 And the children of Benjamin from Geba *dwelt* at Michmash, and Aija, and Bethel and in their villages,

32 And at Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah,
33 Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim,
34 Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat,
35 Lod, and Ono, the valley of Craftsmen. ^{1 Chr 4:14}
36 And of the Levites *were* divisions in Judah *and* in Benjamin.

CHAPTER 12

1 And these *are* the priests and the Levites who went up with Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra,
2 Amariah, Malluch, Hattush,
3 Shechaniah, Rehum, Meremoth,
4 Iddo, Ginnetho, Abijah,
5 Miamin, Maadiah, Bilgah,
6 Shemaiah, and Joiarib, Jedaiah,
7 Sallu, Amok, Hilkiah, Jedaiah. These *were* the heads of the priests and of their brothers in the days of Jeshua.
8 And the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah who was over the choir, he and his brothers.
9 And Bakbukiah and Unni, their brothers *were* opposite them in the guard duty.
10 And Jeshua begot Joiakim, and Joiakim begot Eliashib, and Eliashib begot Joiada,
11 And Joiada begot Jonathan, and Jonathan begot Jaddua.

12 And in the days of Joiakim were priests, the heads of the fathers: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah;
13 Of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan;
14 Of Melicu, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph;
15 Of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai;
16 Of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam;
17 Of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai;
18 Of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan;
19 And of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi;
20 Of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber;
21 Of Hilkiah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethaneel.
22 The Levites in the days of Eliashib: Joiada, and Johanan, and Jaddua *were* written heads of the fathers; and the priests to the reign of Darius, the Persian.
23 The sons of Levi, the heads of the fathers, *were* written in the book of the words of the days, and until the days of Johanan, the son of Eliashib.
24 And the heads of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua, the son of Kadmiel, and their brothers opposite them, to boast, to raise their hands, according to the commandment of David, the man of God, guard beside guard.
25 Mattaniah, and Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, Akkub, *were* porters hedging about the guard of the collection of offer-

NEHEMIAH 12 *The priests and Levites come to Jerusalem, purify themselves, and dedicate the walls at the gates.*

26 These *were* 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.

27 And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places to bring them to Jerusalem, to make the dedication with gladness, and with raising their hands, and with singing, with cymbals, lyres, and with harps.

28 And the sons of the singers gathered themselves together, both out of the circuit of Jordan around Jerusalem, and from the villages of Netophathi,

29 And from the house of Gilgal, and out of the fields of Geba, and Azmaveth, because the singers had built for themselves villages around Jerusalem.

30 And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, and the gates, and the wall.

31 And I brought up the chief rulers of Judah upon the wall, and stood two choirs of them who raised their hands, and walked in procession on the right hand upon the wall toward the dung gate;

32 And after them walked Hoshaiah, and half of the chief rulers of Judah,

33 And Azariah, Ezra, and Meshullam,

34 Judah, and Benjamin, and Shemaiah, and Jeremiah,

35 And certain 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;

36 And his brothers: Shemaiah, and Azarael, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethaneel, and Judah, Hanani, with the musical instruments of David, the man of God, and Ezra, the scribe, before their faces.

37 And over the fountain gate, which was opposite them, they went up on the stairs of the city of David at the going up of the wall above the house of David, and as far as the water gate toward sunrise.

38 And the second choir of them who raised their hands walked opposite *them*, and I after them, and half of the people upon the wall from beyond the tower of the furnaces and to the broad wall;

39 And from above the gate of Ephraim, and above the gate of Jeshanah, and above the fish gate, and the tower of Hananeel, and the tower of Meah, and to the flock animal gate; and they stood at the prison gate.

40 And the two choirs of them who raise their hands in the house of God stood, and I, and half of the governors with me;

41 And the priests: Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Michaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets;

42 And Maaseiah, and Shemaiah, and Eleazar, and Uzzi, and Jehohanan, and Malchijah, and Elam, and Ezer. And the singers were attentively heard, and Jezrahiah *was* the one who was visited over *them*.

43 And that day they sacrificed great sacrifices, and rejoiced, because God caused them to rejoice with great joy; and the wives and the children rejoiced, and the joy of Jerusalem was attentively heard far off.

44 And at that time men were visited over the rooms for the treasuries, for the offerings, for the firstfruits, and for the tithes, to gather into them out of the fields of the cities that which was allotted by the law for the priests and Levites, because Judah rejoiced over the priests and over the Levites who stood.

45 And the singers and the porters hedged about the guard duty of their God, and the guard duty of the purification, according to the commandment of David and of Solomon, his son,

46 Because in the days of David and Asaph of old *were* heads of the singers, and songs of praise, and raising their hands to God.

47 And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah gave the portions of the singers and the porters a word day by day; and they sanctified holy things to the Levites, and the Levites sanctified them to the children of Aaron.

CHAPTER 13

1 On that day they called out from the book of Moses in the ears of the people, and it was found written there that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God forever,

2 Because they did not come before the children of Israel with food and with water, and hired Balaam against them that he should make light of them, and our God turned *their* being made light of into a blessing.

3 And it was, they attentively heard the law, and they separated from Israel all the mixed *marriages*.

4 And before this, Eliashib, the priest, who was given *authority* over the rooms of the house of our God, was allied to Tobiah,

5 And he had made for him a great room, and there where before they gave the food offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the grain, the fresh grape juice, and the oil commanded to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the offerings of the priests.

6 And during all this I was not at Jerusalem, because in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes, king of Babylon, I came to the king, and after days I made my request of the king;

7 And I came to Jerusalem, and understood the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in making for him a room in the courts of the house of God.

NEHEMIAH 13 *Tobiah removed from the Temple; Nehemiah places the Levites, the tithes, the Sabbath*

8 And it was exceedingly evil to me, and I threw all the things of Tobiah out of the room.

9 And I said *to*, and they cleansed the rooms, and I returned the vessels of the house of God with the food offering and the frankincense.

10 And I knew by seeing that the allotments of the Levites had not been given, and the Levites and the singers who did the work had fled every man to his field.

11 And I contended with the governors, and said, Why is the house of God forsaken? And I gathered them together, and stood them in their place.

12 And all Judah brought the tithe of the grain, and the fresh grape juice, and the oil to the treasuries.

13 And I made treasurers over the treasuries: Shelemiah, the priest, and Zadok, the scribe, and Pedaiah of the Levites; and at their hand *was* Hanan, the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah, because they were calculated faithful, and *it was* on them to allot to their brothers.

14 Remember me, Oh my God, concerning this, and do not rub out my mercy that I have done for the house of my God and for its guard duty.

15 In those days I saw in Judah those treading grape vats on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and loading donkeys; and also wine, grapes, and figs, and all kinds of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day; and I testified

against them in the day they sold hunted *game*.

16 And Tyrians dwelt there who brought fish and all kinds of merchandise, and sold on the Sabbath to the children of Judah and in Jerusalem.

17 And I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said to them, What evil word is this that you do and profane the Sabbath day?

18 Did your fathers not do thus, and our God brought all this evil upon us and upon this city? And you bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the Sabbath.

19 And it was, when the gates of Jerusalem began to be shaded facing the Sabbath,¹⁹ I said that the gates should be shut, and said that they should not be opened until after the Sabbath; and I stood some of my servants at the gates that no burden should be brought in on the Sabbath day.

20 And the traveling merchants and sellers of all kinds of merchandise lodged outside Jerusalem a time or two.

21 And I testified against them, and said to them, Why do you lodge in front of the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you. From that time they did not come on the Sabbath.

22 And I said to the Levites who were to cleanse themselves, and they came, and hedged about the gates to sanctify the Sabbath day. Also remember me for this,

¹⁹ **13:19** Remember that the Sabbath began at sundown, not at sunrise, in agreement with Genesis 1:5, **And it was dusk, and it was dawn, day one.**

Nebemiah enforces the Sabbath, rebukes those who married strange wives, Sanballat **NEHEMIAH 13**

Oh my God, and cover me in the abundance of your mercy.

23 Also in those days I saw Jews sit down with wives of Ashdod, Ammon, Moab;

24 And their children spoke half in the language of Ashdod, and did not recognize how to speak the Jews' language, and *spoke* according to the tongue of people and people.²⁴

²⁴ **13:24** the last phrase, **the tongue of people and people** is the literal Hebrew, and means that the language the children learned was a jargon of half Ashdod which obliterated their ability to think and speak as a Jew with faith in God. You find the same phrase, *lashown am waa aam*, in Esther 1:22 where Ahasuerus sent out his decree in the tongue of the various peoples, people by people. The children are the subject here, and the importance of the words of the Jewish language to lodge the words of faith in their hearts. **Your sayings I have hid in my heart that I might not sin against you**, Psa 119:11. Faith is carried in the language of the culture of the family and the community where the child is brought up. The important thing is not what language is spoken, but what religious culture the language carries. The language of Ashdod carried faith in Dagon, the fish god, and Ashtarothe, the female goddess who always appeared alongside of Baal. Prostitution was practiced in her temple, and in her name, and she was served with immoral rites by both men and women. Thus a goddess of pornography was a very vibrant part of the language of Ashdod. The children were brought up speaking a jargon of Ashdod mixed with some Jewish words. The meaning of the Jewish words, their true biblical meaning, was lost in the overwhelming influence of the language and culture of the false religion based on immorality. In every people and in every language around the world you have the same problem. Children are being brought up on the language of the Bible, or the language of false religions, and/or immoral cultures. It is the responsibility of the parents, and of the institutions in the communities, including education, entertainment, government, business, *et al*, to bring up that child on the language of the Bible. Governments in taking a so-called neutral stand have taken a strong stand for evil language and false religion which makes the state above God, and which promotes every evil under the sun in the name of equal rights for everyone except those who cling to the language and the culture of the Word of

25 And I contended with them, and made light of them, and struck *certain* men of them, and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, You shall not give your daughters to their sons, and you shall not take their daughters to your sons, and for yourselves.

26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these? And among many peoples there was no king like him, and was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel; however strange women caused him to sin.

27 And shall we hear you attentively to do all this great evil, to act treacherously against our God in sitting down with strange wives?

28 And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib, the great priest, *was* son in law to Sanballat, the Horonite, and I caused him to flee from me.

29 Remember them, Oh my God, over their profaning the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites.

God. The wicked shall be turned into the world of the dead - all peoples that forget God, Psa 9:17. Every parent and every official of every community institution shall be judged on judgment day before God Almighty for his or her part in the molding of the language and concepts of children, and they shall be judged on whether they lodged the words of the Bible in the child's heart, or whether acting as their own god they filled the child's heart with their own evil opinions!

NEHEMIAH 13*Nehemiah's final report and prayer*

30 And I cleansed them from all strangers, and stood the guards of the priests and the Levites, every man in his ministry,

31 And for the wood offering at appointed times and for the firstfruits. Remember me, Oh my God, for good.