

**{16} Nehemiah**

**Chapter 1**

(1) The words of Nehemiah {comforted by Jehovah}<sup>a</sup> the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu {Kislev [Nov./Dec.]}, in the twentieth year {3623 A.H./C-419 B.C.}<sup>b</sup>, as I was in Shushan the palace<sup>c</sup>,

(2) That Hanani {gracious}<sup>d</sup>, one of my brothers, came, he and *certain* men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who 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 affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and its gates are burned with fire.

(4) And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *certain* days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,

(5) And said, I beg You, O LORD {Jehovah} God of heaven, the great and terrible God, Who keeps covenant and mercy for those who love Him and observe His commandments:

(6) Let Your ear now be attentive, and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant, which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against You: both I and my father's house have sinned.

(7) We have dealt very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, nor the laws, nor the judgments, which You commanded Your servant Moses.

(8) Remember, I beg of You, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, *If you sin, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:*<sup>e</sup>

1:1a - Nehemiah - {נְחֵמְיָהוּ} - comforted by Jehovah - Nehemiah is the cup bearer for the king [Neh. 1:11]

1:1b - this is the 20<sup>th</sup> year of Ahasuerus [also known as Artaxerxes] [3623 A.H./C- 419 B.C.] [see Ezra 4:6-7] [see Neh. 2:1] 14 years after the second temple was completed. We are not told here in the text what the twenty years is in reference to, but in Neh. 2:1 which appears to be the same date it is clear that it is the 20<sup>th</sup> year of Artaxerxes. The second temple {see Ezra} was completed 19 years after Cyrus issued his decree to restore and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem {the second temple was completed 70 years after the first temple was destroyed {19 years after the first exile.} - See [Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History](#) - See [Appendix L: The Modern Jewish Calendar and Holy Days](#). See also [The Jewish Calendar](#) at [www.TheWordNotes.com](http://www.TheWordNotes.com)

1:1c - Shushan - the primary palace of the Persian Empire

1:2d - Hanani {חַנַּנִּי} - gracious - appears in Neh. 7:2 to actually be Nehemiah's brother

1:8e - Deut. 4:27; 28:64

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(9) But *if* you turn to Me, and keep My commandments, and do them; though you were cast out to the uttermost part of the heaven, *yet* I will gather them from there, and will bring them to the place that I have chosen to set My Name there.

(10) Now these *are* Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand.

(11) O Lord, I beg of You, 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, I your servant ask You this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. Because I was the king's cup-bearer.

**Chapter 2**

(1) And it came to pass in the month Nisan {Nisan [Mar./Apr.]}, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes {3623 A.H./C- 419 B.C.}<sup>a</sup> the king, *that* wine *was* before him: and I took up the wine, and gave *it* to the king. Now I had never *before been* sad in his presence.

(2) Therefore the king said to me, Why *is* your countenance {facial expression} sad, since you *are* not sick? this *is* nothing *else* but sorrow of heart. Then I was greatly afraid,

(3) And said to the king, Let the king live forever: why should my countenance {facial expression} not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, *lies* waste, and its gates are consumed with fire?

(4) Then the king said to me, What would you ask? So I prayed to the God of heaven.

(5) And I said to the king, If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you would send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it.

(6) And the king said to me, (the queen {Ester [Est. 2:16]} also sitting by him,) For how long shall your journey be? and when will you return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

(7) Furthermore I said to the king, If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river {west of the Jordan River}, that they may escort me over until I come into Judah;

(8) And a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which *belonged* to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.

(9) Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.

(10) When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard *of it*, it grieved them exceedingly that there was coming a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

(11) So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days.

2:1a - 20<sup>th</sup> year of Artaxerxes [also known as Ahasuerus]; 34 years after Cyrus decree [3623 A.H./C- 419 B.C.] - See [Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History](#)

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(12) And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither did I tell *any* man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: neither *was there any* beast with me, except the beast that I rode upon.

(13) And I went out by night by the gate of the valley, even before the dragon well, and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and its gates were consumed with fire.

(14) Then I went on to the gate of the fountain, and to the king's pool: but *there was* no place for the beast *that was* under me to pass.

(15) Then I went up in the night by the brook, and viewed the wall, and turned back, and entered by the gate of the valley, and so returned.

(16) And the rulers did not know where I went, or what I did; neither had I as yet told *it* to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest who did the work.

(17) Then said I to them, You see the distress that we *are* in, how Jerusalem *lies* in waste, and its gates are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no more be a reproach.

(18) Then I told them of the hand of my God Who was good towards me; as also the king's words that he had spoken to me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for *this* good work.

(19) But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard *it*, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What *is* this thing that you do? will you rebel against the king?

(20) Then I answered them, and said to them, The God of heaven will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build: but you have no part, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

**Chapter 3**

(1) Then Eliashib {God will restore}<sup>a</sup> the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up its doors; even to the tower of Meah they sanctified it, to the tower of Hananeel.

(2) And next to him the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

(3) But the fish gate the sons of Hassenaah built, who *also* laid its beams, and set up its doors, its locks, and its bars.

(4) And next to them Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz repaired. And next to them Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabeel repaired. And next to them Zadok the son of Baana repaired.

(5) And next to them the Tekoites repaired; but their nobles did not put their necks to the work of their Lord.

3:1a - Eliashib {אלישיב} - God will restore

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(6) Moreover the old gate Jehoiada the son of Paseah repaired, and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah; laid its beams, and set up its doors, and its locks, and its bars.

(7) And next to them Melatiah the Gibeonite, and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon, and of Mizpah repaired, to the throne of the governor on this side {west} of the river {the Jordan River}.

(8) Next to him Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, of the goldsmiths repaired. Next to him also Hananiah the son of *one of* the perfume makers repaired, and they fortified Jerusalem to the broad wall.

(9) And next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem repaired.

(10) And next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph repaired, even opposite his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabniah repaired.

(11) Malchijah the son of Harim, and Hashub the son of Pahathmoab, repaired the other piece, and the tower of the furnaces.

(12) And next to him Shallum the son of Halohesh, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem repaired, he and his daughters.

(13) The valley gate Hanun repaired, and the people who lived in Zanoah; they built it, and set up its doors, its locks, and its bars, and a thousand cubits<sup>b</sup> {about 1500 ft.; 457 m.} on the wall to the dung gate.

(14) But the dung gate Malchiah the son of Rechab, the ruler of part of Bethhaccerem repaired; he built it, and set up its doors, its locks, and its bars.

(15) But the gate of the fountain Shallun the son of Colhozeh, the ruler of part of Mizpah repaired; he built it, and covered it, and set up its doors, its locks, and its bars, and the wall of the pool of Siloah by the king's garden, and to the stairs that go down from the city of David.

(16) After him Nehemiah the son of Azbuk repaired, the ruler of the half part of Bethzur, to *the place* opposite the tombs of David, and to the pool that was made, and to the house of the mighty.

(17) After him the Levites, Rehum the son of Bani repaired. Next to him Hashabiah, the ruler of the half part of Keilah, in his part repaired.

(18) After him their brothers, Bavai the son of Henadad, the ruler of the half part of Keilah repaired.

(19) And next to him Ezer the son of Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah repaired, another piece opposite the ascent to the armoury at the turning *of the wall*.

(20) After him Baruch the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired the other piece, from the turning *of the wall* to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.

(21) After him Meremoth the son of Urijah the son of Koz repaired another piece, from the door of the house of Eliashib even to the end of the house of Eliashib.

3:13b - 1000 cubits - about 1500 feet or 457 meters  
- see [Appendix J: Bible Weights and Measures](#)

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(22) And after him the priests, the men of the plain repaired.

(23) After him Benjamin and Hashub repaired opposite their house. After him Azariah the son of Maaseiah the son of Ananiah repaired by his house.

(24) After him Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another piece, from the house of Azariah to the turning *of the wall*, even to the corner.

(25) Palal the son of Uzai, opposite the turning *of the wall*, and the tower which lies out from the king's high house, that *was* by the court of the prison. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh.

(26) Moreover the Nethinims {temple servants} lived in Ophel, to *the place* opposite the water gate towards the east, and the tower that lies out.

(27) After them the Tekoites repaired another piece, opposite the great tower that lies out, even to the wall of Ophel.

(28) From above the horse gate the priests repaired, every one opposite his house.

(29) After them Zadok the son of Immer repaired opposite his house. After him also Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah repaired, the keeper of the east gate.

(30) After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph repaired, another piece. After him Meshullam the son of Berechiah repaired opposite his chamber.

(31) After him Malchiah the goldsmith's son repaired to the place of the Nethinims {temple servants}, and of the merchants, opposite the gate Miphkad, and to the going up of the corner.

(32) And between the going up of the corner to the sheep gate the goldsmiths and the merchants repaired.

**Chapter 4**

(1) But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we built the wall, he was angry, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews.

(2) And he spoke before his brothers and the army of Samaria, and said, What are these feeble Jews doing? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned?

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

(4) Hear, O our God; because we are despised: and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity:

(5) And do not cover their sin, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You: because they have provoked *You* to anger before the builders.

(6) So we built the wall; and all the wall was joined together to half its height: because the people had a mind to work.

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(7) But it came to pass, *that* when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, *and* that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very angry,

(8) And all of them conspired together to come *and* to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.

(9) Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

(10) And Judah said, The strength of those who carry burdens has decayed, and *there is* much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall.

(11) And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, until we come in the midst among them, and kill them, and cause the work to cease.

(12) And it came to pass, that when the Jews who lived by them came, they said to us ten times, From all places where you shall return to us *they will be upon you*.

(13) Therefore I set in the lower places behind the wall, *and* on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

(14) And I looked, and rose up, and said to the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Do not be afraid of them: remember the Lord, *Who is* great and terrible, and fight for your brothers, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

(15) And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and God had brought their counsel to nothing, that we all returned to the wall, everyone to his work.

(16) And it came to pass from that time forth, *that* the half of my servants did the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the armor; and the rulers *were* behind all the house of Judah.

(17) Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, with those who lifted the materials, *everyone* with one of his hands did the work, and with the other *hand* held a weapon.

(18) Because the builders, everyone had his sword fastened by his side, and so built. And he who sounded the trumpet *was* by me.

(19) And I said to the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, The work *is* great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

(20) *Therefore* in whatever place you hear the sound of the trumpet, come there to us: our God shall fight for us.

(21) So we labored in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning until the stars appeared.

(22) Likewise at the same time I said to the people, Let everyone with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labor in the day.

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(23) So neither I, nor my brothers, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us put off our clothes, *except* every one put them off for washing.

**Chapter 5**

(1) And there was a great cry of the people and of their wives against their brothers the Jews.

(2) Because there were those who said, We, our sons, and our daughters, *are* many: therefore we take up corn *for them*, that we may eat, and live.

(3) There were *some* also who said, We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn, because of the drought.

(4) There were also those who said, We have borrowed money for the king's taxes, *and that upon* our lands and vineyards.

(5) Yet now our flesh *is* as the flesh of our brothers, our children as their children: and, look, we bring our sons and our daughters into bondage to be servants, and *some* of our daughters are brought to bondage *already*: neither *is it* in our power *to redeem them*; because other men have our lands and vineyards.

(6) And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words.

(7) Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said to them, You all charge usury {interest}<sup>a</sup>, to your brothers. And I set a great assembly against them.

(8) And I said to them, We after our ability have redeemed our brothers the Jews, which were sold to the heathen {ungodly nations}; and will you even sell your brothers? or shall they be sold to us? Then they held their peace, and found nothing *to answer*.

(9) Also I said, *It is not good* what you do: shouldn't you walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen {ungodly nations} our enemies?

(10) I likewise, *and* my brothers, and my servants, might exact of them money and corn: I beg you, let us leave off this usury.

(11) I ask you to restore, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their olive-groves, and their houses, also the hundredth *part<sup>a</sup>* of the money, and of the corn, the wine, and the oil, that you exact of them.

(12) Then they said, We will restore *them*, and will require nothing of them; so we will do as you have said. Then I called the priests, and took an oath of them, that they should do according to this promise.

(13) Also I shook my lap, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labor, who does not perform this promise, even in this manner may he be shaken out, and emptied. And all the congregation said, Amen {let it be}, and praised the LORD {Jehovah}. And the people did according to this promise.

5:7,11a - some argue that usury is an exorbitant interest rate -- here it is clear that 1 percent is unacceptable to the Lord -- the law of Moses was very specific in forbidding the charging of interest to fellow Jews [Deut. 23:19-20]; but they were allowed to charge whatever interest they could get to non-Jews {unbelievers}.

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(14) Furthermore from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king {3628 A.H./C-414 B.C.}<sup>b</sup>, *that is*, twelve years, I and my brothers have not eaten the bread of the governor.

(15) But the former governors who *had been* before me were chargeable to the people, and had taken from them bread and wine, besides forty shekels {about 16 oz.; 1 lb.; 454 gm.}<sup>c</sup> of silver; yes, even their servants bore rule over the people: but I did not, because of the fear of God.

(16) Yes, also I continued in the work of this wall, neither did we buy any land: and all my servants *were* gathered there to the work.

(17) Furthermore *there were* at my table a hundred and fifty of the Jews and rulers, besides those who came to us from among the heathen {ungodly nations} who *are* around us.

(18) Now *that* which was prepared *for me* daily *was* one ox *and* six choice sheep; also birds were prepared for me, and once in ten days store of all sorts of wine: yet for all this I did not require the bread of the governor, because the bondage was heavy upon this people.

(19) Think of me, my God, because of the good, *according* to all that I have done for these people.

### Chapter 6

(1) Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had built the wall, and *that* there was no breach left in it; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;)

(2) That Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, Come, let us meet together in *one of* the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.

(3) And I sent messengers to them, saying, I *am* doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, while I leave it, and come down to you?

(4) Yet they sent to me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner.

(5) Then Sanballat sent his servant to me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand;

(6) In which *was* written,  
It is reported among the heathen {ungodly nations}, and Gashmu says *it, that* you and the Jews think to rebel: which is the reason that you build the wall, that you may be their king, according to these words.

(7) And you have also appointed prophets to preach of you at Jerusalem, saying, *There is* a king in Judah: and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together.

5:14b - 32<sup>nd</sup> year of Artaxerxes [Also known as Ahasuerus], 39 years after Cyrus decree [3628 A.H./C-414 B.C.] - see [Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History](#)

5:15c - shekel = 0.4 ounces = 11.4 grams – see [Appendix J: Bible Weights and Measures](#)

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(8) Then I sent to him, saying, There are no such things done that you say, but you pretend them out of your own heart.

(9) Because they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it not be done. Now therefore, *O God*, strengthen my hands.

(10) Afterward 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 together in the house {temple} of God, inside the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: because they will come to kill you; yes, in the night they will come to kill you.

(11) And I said, Should such a man as I flee? and who *is there*, that, *being* as I *am*, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in.

(12) And, indeed, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

(13) Therefore he *was* hired, that I should be afraid, and do so, and sin, and *that* they might have a *reason* for an evil report, that they might reproach me.

(14) My God, consider Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, who would have put me in fear.

(15) So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth *day of the month* Elul {Ellul [Aug./Sep.]}, in fifty-two days.<sup>a</sup>

(16) And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard *of it*, and all the heathen {ungodly nations} who *were* around us saw *these things*, they were much cast down in their own eyes: because they perceived that this work was done of our God.

(17) Moreover in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and *the letters* of Tobiah came to them.

(18) Because *there were* many in Judah sworn 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 reported his good deeds before me, and repeated my words to him. *And* Tobiah sent letters to put me in fear.

### Chapter 7

(1) Now it came to pass, when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the porters {gate-keepers} and the singers and the Levites were appointed,

(2) That I gave my brother Hanania<sup>a</sup>, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: because he *was* a faithful man, and feared God above many.

6:15a – Ellul 25 [Aug./Sept.] the wall is finished – in 52 days - See [Appendix L: The Modern Jewish Calendar and Holy Days](#). See also [The Jewish Calendar](#) at [www.TheWordNotes.com](http://www.TheWordNotes.com)

7:2a – Neh. 1:2

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(3) And I said to them, Do not let the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot; and while they stand by, let them shut the doors, and bar *them*: and appoint watches of the people who live in Jerusalem, everyone in his watch, and every one *to be* opposite his house.

(4) Now the city *was* large and great: but the people *were* few in it, and the houses *were* not built.

(5) And my God put into my heart to gather together the nobles, and the rulers, and the people, that they might be reckoned by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of those 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 who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and came again to Jerusalem and to Judah, everyone to his city;

(7) Who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai<sup>b</sup>, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah. The number, *I say*, of the men of the people of Israel *was this*;

(8) The children of Parosh, two thousand one hundred seventy-two.

(9) The children of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy-two.

(10) The children of Arah, six hundred fifty-two.

(11) The children of Pahathmoab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand and eight hundred *and* eighteen.

(12) The children of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty-four.

(13) The children of Zattu, eight hundred forty-five.

(14) The children of Zaccai, seven hundred and sixty.

(15) The children of Binnui, six hundred forty-eight.

(16) The children of Bebai, six hundred twenty-eight.

(17) The children of Azgad, two thousand three hundred twenty-two.

(18) The children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty-seven.

(19) The children of Bigvai, two thousand sixty-seven.

(20) The children of Adin, six hundred fifty-five.

(21) The children of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety-eight.

(22) The children of Hashum, three hundred twenty-eight.

(23) The children of Bezai, three hundred twenty-four.

(24) The children of Hariph, a hundred and twelve.

(25) The children of Gibeon, ninety-five.

(26) The men of Bethlehem and Netophah, an hundred eighty-eight.

(27) The men of Anathoth, a hundred twenty-eight.

(28) The men of Bethazmaveth, forty-two.

(29) The men of Kirjathjearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred forty-three.

(30) The men of Ramah and Geba, six hundred twenty-one.

(31) The men of Michmas, a hundred and twenty-two.

7:7b – Mordecai – see Ezra 2:2; Esther 2:5

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(32) The men of Bethel and Ai, a hundred twenty-three.

(33) The men of the other Nebo, fifty-two.

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

(35) The children of Harim, three hundred and twenty.

(36) The children of Jericho, three hundred forty-five.

(37) The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred 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 seventy-three.

(40) The children of Immer, a thousand fifty-two.

(41) The children of Pashur, a thousand two hundred 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, an hundred forty-eight.

(45) The porters {gate-keepers}: 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 thirty-eight.

(46) The Nethinims {temple servants}<sup>c</sup>: 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,

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

7:46c - Nethinims {נְתִינִים} – temple servants - slaves

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

(60) All the Nethinims {temple servants}, and the children of Solomon's servants, *were* three hundred ninety-two.

(61) And these *were* those who went up *also* from Telmelah, Telharesha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer: but they could not show their father's house, nor their ancestry, whether they *were* of Israel.

(62) The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred forty-two.

(63) And of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai, who took *one* of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite to be his wife, and was called after their name.

(64) These sought their register *among* those who were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found: therefore they were, as polluted, put from the priesthood.

(65) And the Tirshatha said to them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, until there stood *up* a priest with Urim and Thummim<sup>d</sup>.

(66) The whole congregation together *was* forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty,

(67) Besides their man-servants and their maidservants, of whom *there were* seven thousand three hundred thirty-seven: and they had two hundred forty-five singing men and singing women.

(68) Their horses, seven hundred thirty-six: their mules, two hundred forty-five:

(69) *Their* camels, four hundred thirty-five: six thousand seven hundred and twenty donkeys.

(70) And some of the chief of the fathers gave to the work. the governor gave to the treasure a thousand drams<sup>e</sup> {about 154 oz.; 9.6 lbs.; 4.37 kg.} of gold, fifty bowls, five hundred and thirty priests' robes.

(71) And *some* of the chief of the fathers gave to the treasure of the work twenty thousand drams {about 308 oz.; 19.2 lbs.; 8.74 kg.} of gold, and two thousand and two hundred pounds of silver.

(72) And *that* which the rest of the people gave *was* twenty thousand drams {about 308 oz.; 19.2 lbs.; 8.74 kg.} of gold, and two thousand pounds of silver, and sixty-seven priests' robes.

(73) So the priests, and the Levites, and the porters {gate-keepers}, and the singers, and *some* of the people, and the Nethinims {temple servants}, and all Israel, lived in their cities; and when the seventh month {Tishri [Sept./Oct.]} came, the children of Israel *were* in their cities.

7:65d - Urim and Thummim – Ex. 28:30

7:70e - dram - about 0.154 ounces or about 4.37 grams

- see [Appendix J: Bible Weights and Measures](#)

**{16} Nehemiah**

**Chapter 8**

(1) And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was in front of the water gate; and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD {Jehovah} had commanded to Israel.

(2) And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all who could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month {Tishri [Sept./Oct.]}.<sup>a</sup>

(3) And he read in it in front of the street that *was* in front of the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* to the book of the law.

(4) And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaijah, and Urijah, and Hilkiyah, 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 sight 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 the LORD {Jehovah}, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen {let it be}, Amen {let it be}, with lifting up of their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshiped the LORD {Jehovah} with their faces to the ground.

(7) Also 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 in their place.

(8) So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and explained the meaning, and caused them to understand the reading.

(9) And Nehemiah, who *was* the governor, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites who taught the people, said to all the people, This day is holy to the LORD {Jehovah} your God; do not mourn, nor weep. Because all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.

(10) Then he said to them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared: because *this* day is holy to our Lord: neither be sorry; because the joy of the LORD {Jehovah} is your strength.

(11) So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, because the day is holy; neither be grieved.

8:2a – first day of the seventh month {Tishri [Sept./Oct.] - Rosh Hashanah – [New Year] - See [Appendix L: The Modern Jewish Calendar and Holy Days](#). See also [The Jewish Calendar](#) at [www.TheWordNotes.com](http://www.TheWordNotes.com)

**{16} Nehemiah**

(12) And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great joy, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

(13) And on the second day there were gathered together the chief of the fathers of all the people, the priests, and the Levites, to Ezra the scribe, even to understand the words of the law.

(14) And they found written in the law which the LORD {Jehovah} had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should live in booths in the feast of the seventh month {Feast of Tabernacles} {Tishri [Sept./Oct.]}<sup>a</sup>:

(15) And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth to the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written.

(16) So the people went forth, and brought them, and made for themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house {temple} 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 those who had returned out of the captivity 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 very great gladness.

(18) Also day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read in the book of the law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according to the manner.

**Chapter 9**

(1) Now in the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sack-clothes and dirt upon them.

(2) And the descendants of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the sins of their fathers.

(3) And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD {Jehovah} their God *one* fourth part of the day {3 hours};<sup>a</sup> and *another* fourth part {3 hours} they confessed, and worshiped the LORD {Jehovah} their God.

(4) Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, *and* Chenani stood up upon the stairs, and cried with a loud voice to the LORD {Jehovah} their God.

8:14a - the fifteenth day of the seventh month - the Feast of Tabernacles  
- see Lev. 23 - See [Appendix L: The Modern Jewish Calendar and Holy Days](#). See also [The Jewish Calendar](http://www.TheWordNotes.com) at [www.TheWordNotes.com](http://www.TheWordNotes.com)  
9:3a – fourth part of a day – they read the law for 3 hours, for 3 hours they worshiped

**{16} Nehemiah**

(5) Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, Stand up *and* bless the LORD {Jehovah} your God forever and ever: and blessed is Your glorious Name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

(6) You, *even* You alone, *are* LORD {Jehovah}; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all *things* that *are* in it, the seas, and all that *is* in them, and You preserved them all; and the host of heaven worships You.

(7) You *are* the LORD {Jehovah} the God, Who chose Abram, and brought him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gave him the name of Abraham;

(8) And found his heart faithful before You, and made 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, I say*, to his descendants, and have performed Your words; because You *are* righteous:

(9) And {You} saw the affliction of our forefathers in Egypt, and heard their cry by the Red Sea;

(10) And showed signs and wonders upon Pharaoh, and on all his servants, and on all the people of his land: because You knew that they dealt proudly against them. So You obtained for Yourself a Name, as *it is* this day.

(11) And You divided the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; and their persecutors You threw into the deep, as a stone into the mighty waters.

(12) Moreover You led them in the day by a cloudy pillar; and in the night by a pillar of fire, to give them light in the way in which they should go.

(13) You came down also upon mount Sinai, and spoke with them from heaven, and gave them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments:

(14) And made known to them Your holy sabbath, and commanded them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses Your servant:

(15) And gave them bread from heaven for their hunger, and brought forth water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and promised them that they should go in to possess the land which You had sworn to give them.

(16) But they and our forefathers dealt proudly, and became stubborn, and did not listen to Your commandments,

(17) And refused to obey, neither were {they} mindful of Your wonders that You did among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but You *are* a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and did not forsake them.

**{16} Nehemiah**

(18) Yes, when they had made for themselves a molten calf, and said, This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt, and had greatly provoked {You};

(19) Yet You in Your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud did not depart from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to show them light, and the way in which they should go.

(20) You gave also Your good Spirit to instruct them, and did not withhold Your manna from their mouths, and gave them water for their thirst.

(21) Yes, forty years You sustained them in the wilderness, so *that* they lacked nothing; their clothes did not grow old, and their feet did not swell.

(22) Moreover You gave them kingdoms and nations, and divided them into corners: so they possessed the land of Sihon, and the land of the king of Heshbon, and the land of Og king of Bashan.

(23) You also multiplied their children as the stars of heaven, and brought them into the land, concerning which You had promised to their forefathers, that they should go in to possess *it*.

(24) So the children went in and possessed the land, and You subdued before them the people who lived in the land, the Canaanites, and gave them into their hands, with their kings, and the people of the land, that they might do with them as they chose.

(25) And they took strong cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses full of all goods, dug wells, vineyards, and olive-groves, and fruit trees in abundance: so they did eat, and were filled, and became fat, and delighted themselves in Your great goodness.

(26) Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against You, and cast Your law behind their backs, and killed Your prophets who testified against them to turn them back to You, and they greatly provoked {You}.

(27) Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their enemies, who troubled them: and in the time of their trouble, when they cried to You, You heard *them* from heaven; and according to Your great mercies You gave them saviors, who saved them out of the hand of their enemies.

(28) But after they had rest, they did evil again before You: therefore You left them in the hand of their enemies, so that they had the rule over them: yet when they returned, and cried to You, You heard *them* from heaven; and many times You delivered them according to Your mercies;

(29) And testified against them, that You might bring them again to Your law: yet they dealt proudly, and did not listen to Your commandments, but sinned against Your judgments, (which if a man does them, he shall live in them;) and withdrew the shoulder, and hardened their hearts, and would not listen.

**{16} Nehemiah**

(30) Yet many years You bore with them, and testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets: yet they would not listen: therefore You gave them into the hand of the people of the lands.

(31) Nevertheless because of Your great mercies' sake You did not completely consume them, nor forsake them; because you *are* a gracious and merciful God.

(32) Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, Who keeps covenant and mercy, do not let all the trouble seem little before You, that has come upon us, on our kings, on our princes, and on our priests, and on our prophets, and on our fathers, and on all Your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria to this day.

(33) However You *are* just in all that is brought upon us; because You have done right, but we have done wickedly:

(34) Neither have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers, kept Your law, nor listened to Your commandments and Your testimonies, with which You testified against them.

(35) Because they have not served You in their kingdom, and in Your great goodness that You gave them, and in the large and fat land which You gave before them, neither did they turn from their wicked works.

(36) Indeed, we *are* servants this day, and *for* the land that You gave to our forefathers to eat its fruit and its goodness, indeed, we *are* servants in it:

(37) And it yields much increase to the kings whom You have set over us because of our sins: also they have rule over our bodies, and over our cattle, at their pleasure, and we *are* in great distress.

(38) And because of all this we make a sure *covenant*, and write *it*; and our princes, Levites, and priests, signed *it*.

**Chapter 10**

(1) Now those who signed *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: both 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 chief of the people; Parosh, Pahathmoab, Elam, Zattu, Bani,

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(15) Bunni, Azgad, Bebai,  
(16) Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin,  
(17) Ater, Hizkijah, Azzur,  
(18) Hodijah, Hashum, Bezai,  
(19) Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai,  
(20) Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir,  
(21) Meshezabeel, Zadok, Jaddua,  
(22) Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiiah,  
(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 {gate-keepers}, the singers, the Nethinims {temple servants}<sup>a</sup>, and all those who had separated themselves from the people of the lands to the law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, every one having knowledge, and having understanding;  
(29) They clung to their brothers, their nobles, and entered into a curse, and into 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 {Jehovah} our Lord, and His judgments and His laws;  
(30) And that we would not give our daughters to the people of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons:

(31) And *if* the people of the land bring goods or any food on the sabbath day {Saturday} to sell, *that* we would not buy it from them on the sabbath {Saturday}, or on the holy day: and *that* we would leave the seventh year, and the cancellation of every debt.<sup>b</sup>  
(32) Also we made laws for ourselves, to charge ourselves yearly with the third part of a shekel {about 0.133 oz.; 3.8 gm.}<sup>c</sup> {of silver} for the service of the house {temple} of our God;<sup>d</sup>  
(33) For the holy-bread, and for the continual meat offering, and for the continual burnt offering, of the sabbaths {Saturdays}, of the new moons, for the set feasts, and for the holy *things*, and for the sin offerings to make an atonement for Israel, and *for* all the work of the house {temple} of our God.  
(34) And we cast the lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for the wood offering, to bring *it* into the house {temple} of our God, after the houses of our fathers, at times appointed year by year, to burn upon the altar of the LORD {Jehovah} our God, as *it* is written in the law:  
(35) And to bring the first-fruits of our ground, and the first-fruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, to the house {temple} of the LORD {Jehovah}:

10:28a - Nethinims {נְתִינִים} – temple servants - slaves  
10:31b – cancellation of debt - Lev. 25:1-55  
10:32c - a shekel = 0.4 ounces = 11.4 grams – see [Appendix J: Bible Weights and Measures](#)  
10:32d – for the service of the temple – see Ex. 30:13-16

**{16} Nehemiah**

(36) Also the firstborn of our sons, and of our cattle, as *it is* written in the law, and the first born of our herds and of our flocks, to bring to the house {temple} of our God, to the priests who minister in the house {temple} of our God:

(37) And *that* we should bring the first-fruits of our dough, and our offerings, and the fruit of all manner of trees, of wine and of oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house {temple} of our God; and the tithes {10%}<sup>e</sup> of our ground to the Levites, that the same Levites might have the tithes {10%} in all the cities of our plowed fields.

(38) And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes {10%}: and the Levites shall bring up the tithe {10%} of the tithes {10%} to the house {temple} of our God, to the chambers, into the treasure house.

(39) Because the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the corn, of the new wine, and the oil, to the chambers, where the vessels of the sanctuary *are*, and the priests who minister, and the porters {gate-keepers}, and the singers: and we will not forsake the house {temple} of our God.

**Chapter 11**

(1) And the rulers of the people lived at Jerusalem: the rest of the people also cast lots, to bring one of ten to live in Jerusalem the holy city, and nine parts *to live* in *other* cities.

(2) And the people blessed all the men, who willingly offered themselves to live at Jerusalem.

(3) Now these *are* the chief of the province who lived in Jerusalem: but in the cities of Judah every one lived in his possession in their cities, *including*, Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the Nethinims {temple servants}, and the children of Solomon's servants.

(4) And at Jerusalem *certain* of the children of Judah, and of the children of Benjamin lived. 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 lived at Jerusalem *were* four hundred sixty-eight valiant men.

(7) And these *are* the sons of Benjamin; Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Joed, the son of Pedaiah, the son of Kolaiah, the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ithiel, the son of Jesaiah.

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

(9) And Joel the son of Zichri *was* their overseer: and Judah the son of Senuah *was* second over the city.

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

10:37e - tithes - ten percent of all income - Lev. 27:30-32

**{16} Nehemiah**

(11) Seraiah the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, *was* the ruler of the house {temple} of God.

(12) And their brothers who did the work of the house {temple} *were* eight hundred 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, chief of the fathers, two hundred 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 valour, an hundred twenty-eight: and their overseer *was* Zabdiel, the son of *one of* the great men.

(15) Also 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 chief of the Levites, *had* the oversight of the outward business of the house {temple} of God.

(17) And Mattaniah the son of Micha, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, *was* the principal {one} to begin the thanksgiving 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 eighty-four.

(19) Furthermore the porters {gate-keepers}, Akkub, Talmon, and their brothers who kept the gates, *were* an hundred seventy-two.

(20) And the remainder of Israel, of the priests, *and* the Levites, *were* in all the cities of Judah, everyone in his inheritance.

(21) But the Nethinims {temple servants} lived in Ophel: and Ziha and Gispa *were* over the Nethinims {temple servants}.

(22) The overseer also 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 *were* over the business of the house {temple} of God.

(23) Because *it was* the king's commandment concerning them, that a certain portion should be for the singers, due for every 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 matters concerning the people.

(25) And for the villages, with their fields, *some of* the children of Judah lived at Kirjatharba, 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 Bethpheet,

(27) And at Hazarshual, and at Beersheba, and *in* its villages,

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

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(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 lived from Beersheba to the valley of Hinnom.  
(31) The children also of Benjamin from Geba *lived* 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.  
(36) And of the Levites *were* divisions *in* Judah, *and* in Benjamin.

**Chapter 12**

(1) Now 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, Hilkiyah, Jedaiah. These *were* the chief of the priests and of their brothers in the days of Jeshua.  
(8) Furthermore the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, *and* Mattaniah, *who was* over the thanksgiving, he and his brothers.  
(9) Also Bakbukiah and Unni, their brothers, *were* opposite them in the watches.

(10) And Jeshua fathered Joiakim, Joiakim also fathered Eliashib, and Eliashib fathered Joiada,  
(11) And Joiada fathered Jonathan, and Jonathan fathered Jaddua.  
(12) And in the days of Joiakim were priests, the chief 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 Hilkiyah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethaneel.  
(22) The Levites in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, and Johanan, and Jaddua, *were* recorded chief of the fathers: also the priests, to the reign of Darius the Persian.  
(23) The sons of Levi, the chief of the fathers, *were* written in the book of the chronicles, even until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib.

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(24) And the chief of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brothers opposite them, to praise *and* to give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, ward opposite ward.

(25) Mattaniah, and Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, Akkub, *were* porters {gate-keepers} keeping the ward at the thresholds of 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 keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, *with* cymbals, psalteries, and with harps.

(28) And the sons of the singers gathered themselves together, both out of the plain country around Jerusalem, and from the villages of Netophathi;

(29) Also from the house of Gilgal, and out of the fields of Geba and Azmaveth: because the singers had built for themselves villages all around Jerusalem.

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

(31) Then I brought up the princes of Judah upon the wall, and appointed two great *companies of those who gave thanks, of which one* went on the right hand upon the wall towards the dung gate:

(32) And after them Hoshaiah went, and half of the princes 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; *namely*, 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 them.

(37) And at the fountain gate, which was opposite them, they went up by the stairs of the city of David, at the going up of the wall, above the house of David, even to the water gate eastward.

(38) And the other *company of those who gave thanks went opposite them*, and I after them, and the half of the people upon the wall, from beyond the tower of the furnaces even to the broad wall;

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(39) And from above the gate of Ephraim, and above the old gate, and above the fish gate, and the tower of Hananeel, and the tower of Meah, even to the sheep gate: and they stood still in the prison gate.

(40) So stood the two *companies of those who gave* thanks in the house {temple} of God, and I, and the half of the rulers 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 sang loud, with Jezrahiah *their* overseer.

(43) Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced: because God had caused them to rejoice with great joy: the wives also and the children rejoiced: so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off.

(44) And at that time were some appointed over the chambers for the treasures, for the offerings, for the first-fruits, and for the tithes {10%}, to gather into them out of the fields of the cities the portions of the law for the priests and Levites: because Judah rejoiced for the priests and for the Levites who waited.

(45) And both the singers and the porters {gate-keepers} kept the ward of their God, and the ward 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 *there were* chief of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving 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 {gate-keepers}, every day his portion: 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 read in the book of Moses in the hearing of the people; and there was found written in it, that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God forever;<sup>a</sup>

(2) Because they did not meet the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse them: however our God turned the curse into a blessing.

(3) Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude.

(4) And before this, Eliashib the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house {temple} of our God, *was* allied to Tobiah:

13:1a – Deut. 23:3

**{16} Nehemiah**

(5) And he had prepared for him a great chamber, where before they laid the meat offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the corn, the new wine, and the oil, which was commanded *to be given* to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters {gate-keepers}; and the offerings of the priests.

(6) But in all this *time* I was not at Jerusalem: because in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon {3635 A.H./C- 407 B.C.}<sup>b</sup> I came to the king, and after certain days I obtained leave of the king:

(7) And I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house {temple} of God.

(8) And it grieved me greatly: therefore I cast forth all the household stuff of Tobiah out of the chamber.

(9) Then I commanded, and they cleansed the chambers: and there I brought again the vessels of the house {temple} of God, with the meat offering and the frankincense.

(10) And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given *them*: for the Levites and the singers, who did the work, had fled everyone to his field.

(11) Then I contended with the rulers, and said, Why is the house {temple} of God forsaken? And I gathered them together, and set them in their place.

(12) Then all Judah brought the tithe {10%} of the corn and the new wine and the oil to the treasuries.

(13) And I made treasurers over the treasuries, Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah: and next to them *was* Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah: because they were counted faithful, and their office *was* to distribute to their brothers.

(14) Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house {temple} of my God, and for its offices.

(15) In those days I saw in Judah *some* treading wine presses on the sabbath {Saturday}, and bringing in sheaves, and loading donkeys; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all *manner of* burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day {Saturday}: and I testified *against them* in the day in which they sold food.

(16) There lived men of Tyre also in there, who brought fish, and all manner of goods, and sold on the sabbath to the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem.

(17) Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said to them, What evil thing *is* this that you do, and profane the sabbath day {Saturday}?

(18) Did not your fathers do this, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet you bring more anger upon Israel by profaning the sabbath {Saturday}.

13:6b - 32<sup>nd</sup> year of Artaxerxes [3635 A.H./C- 407 B.C.] - See [Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History](#)

**{16} Nehemiah**

(19) And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath {Saturday}, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened until after the sabbath {Saturday}: and *some* of my servants I set at the gates, *that* there should be no burden brought in on the sabbath day {Saturday}.

(20) So the merchants and sellers of all kind of goods lodged outside of Jerusalem once or twice.

(21) Then I testified against them, and said to them, Why do you lodge around the wall? if you do *so* again, I will lay hands on you. From that time forth they did not come on the sabbath {Saturday}.

(22) And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and *that* they should come *and* keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day {Saturday}. Remember me, O my God, *concerning* this also, and spare me according to the greatness of Your mercy.

(23) In those days also I saw Jews *who* had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, *and* of Moab:

(24) And their children spoke half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people.

(25) And I contended with them, and cursed them, and struck certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, *saying*, You shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor take their daughters to your sons, or for yourselves.

(26) Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations there was no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless outlandish women even caused him to sin.

(27) Shall we then listen to you to do all this great evil, to sin against our God in marrying strange {unbelieving} wives?

(28) And *one* of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, *was* son-in-law to Sanballat the Horonite: therefore I chased him from me.

(29) Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites.

(30) So I cleansed them from all strangers, and appointed the wards of the priests and the Levites, everyone in his business;

(31) And for the wood offering, at times appointed, and for the first-fruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.

