

The Book of  
Nehemiah

1 Nehemiah's sorrow over the remnant in Jerusalem. 2:1 He gets permission to visit them.

1 *The*<sup>1</sup> words of Nehemiah *the* son of Hakaliah.

Now it came to pass in *the* month Khislev, in *the* twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the <sup>2</sup>palace, 2 that Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and *certain* men out of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews *that* had escaped, that were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province *are* in great affliction and reproach: *the* wall of Jerusalem also *is* broken down, and *the* gates thereof 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 I fasted and prayed before the God of heaven, 5 and said, I beseech thee, O Jehovah, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, that keepeth covenant and lovingkindness with them that love him and keep his commandments: 6 let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hearken unto *the* prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee at *this* time, day and night, for *the* children of Israel thy servants, while I confess *the* sins of *the* children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee. Yes, I and my father's house have sinned: 7 we have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses. 8 Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, <sup>3</sup>*If* ye trespass, I will scatter you abroad among the peoples: 9 but *if* ye return unto me, and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts were in *the* uttermost part of the heavens, *yet* will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen, to cause my name to dwell there. 10 Now these *are* thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand. 11 <sup>4</sup>O Jehovah, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to *the* prayer of thy servant, and to *the* prayer of thy servants, who delight to fear thy name; and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant *this* day, and grant him mercy in *the* sight of this man.

Now I was cupbearer to the king.

2 And it came to pass in *the* month of Nisan, in *the* twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, *when* wine was before him, that I took up the wine, and gave *it* unto the king. Now I had not been *beforetime* sad in his presence. 2 And the king said unto me, Why *is* thy countenance sad, seeing thou *art* not sick? This *is* nothing *else* but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid. 3 And I said unto the king, Let the king live <sup>5</sup>forever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, *lieth* waste, and *the* gates thereof are consumed with fire? 4 Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven. 5 And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favor in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto *the* city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it. 6 And the king said unto me (the queen also sitting by him), For how long shall thy journey be? And when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time. 7 Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to *the* governors beyond the River, that they may let me pass through till I come unto Judah; 8 and a letter unto Asaph *the* keeper of the king's <sup>6</sup>forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the castle which *appertaineth* 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 with me captains of *the* army and horsemen. 10 And when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard *of it*, it grieved them exceedingly, for that there was come a man to seek *the* welfare of *the* children of Israel. 11 So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days. 12 And I arose in *the* night, I and some few men with me; neither told I *any* man what my God put into my heart to do for Jerusalem; neither *was there any* beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon. 13 And I went out by night by the valley gate, even toward the jackal's well, and to the dung gate, and viewed *the* walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and *the* gates thereof were consumed with fire. 14 Then I went on to the fountain gate and to the king's pool: but *there was* no place for the beast *that was* under me to pass. 15 Then went I up in *the* night by

<sup>1</sup> *Or*, history

<sup>2</sup> *Or*, castle

<sup>3</sup> Lv 26:27, 33; Dt 28:15-25, 30:1-4.

<sup>4</sup> Sopherim *changed to*, O Lord,

<sup>5</sup> *Or*, for time unlimited, [*i.e.*, without fixed termination]

<sup>6</sup> *Or*, park,

the brook, and viewed the wall; and I turned back, and entered by the valley gate, and *so* returned. 16 And the <sup>7</sup>rulers knew not whither 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 that did the work.

17 Then said I unto them, Ye see the evil case that we *are* in, how Jerusalem *lieth* waste, and *the* gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach. 18 And I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me, as also of the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for the 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 ye do? will ye rebel against the king? 20 Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

**3** Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up *the* doors of it; even unto *the* tower of <sup>8</sup>Hammeah they sanctified it, unto *the* tower of Hananel. **2** And next unto him builded *the* men of Jericho. And next to <sup>9</sup>them builded Zaccur *the* son of Imri.

**3** And the fish gate did *the* sons of Hassenaah build; they laid *the* beams thereof, and set up *the* doors thereof, *the* bolts thereof, and *the* bars thereof. **4** And next unto them repaired Meremoth *the* son of Uriah, *the* son of Hakkoz. And next unto them repaired Meshullam *the* son of Berechiah, *the* son of Meshezabel. And next unto them repaired Zadok *the* son of Baana. **5** And next unto them the Tekoites repaired; but their nobles put not their necks to *the* work of their <sup>10</sup>lord.

**6** And <sup>11</sup>the old gate repaired Joiada *the* son of Paseah and Meshullam *the* son of Besodeiah; they laid the beams thereof, and set up *the* doors thereof, and *the* bolts thereof, and *the* bars thereof. **7** And next unto them repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite, and Jadon the Meronothite, *the* men of Gibeon, and of Mizpah, *that* appertained to the throne of *the* governor beyond the River. **8** Next unto him repaired Uzziel *the* son of Harhaiah, goldsmiths. And next unto him repaired Hananiah son of *one of* the perfumers, and they <sup>12</sup>fortified Jerusalem even unto the broad wall. **9** And

<sup>7</sup> Or, deputies (both times)

<sup>8</sup> Or, The hundred

<sup>9</sup> Hb. him

<sup>10</sup> Or, lords. or, Lord.

<sup>11</sup> Or, the gate of the old city (or, ...of the old wall)

<sup>12</sup> Or, left Jerusalem

next unto them repaired Rephaiah *the* son of Hur, *the* ruler of half *the* district of Jerusalem. **10** And next unto them repaired Jedaiah *the* son of Harumaph, over against his house. And next unto him repaired Hattush *the* son of Hashabneiah.

**11** Malchijah *the* son of Harim, and Hasshub *the* son of Pahath-moab, repaired another portion, and the tower of the furnaces. **12** And next unto him repaired Shallum *the* son of Hallohesh, *the* ruler of half *the* district of Jerusalem, he and his daughters.

**13** The valley gate repaired Hanun, and *the* inhabitants of Zanoah; they built it, and set up *the* doors thereof, *the* bolts thereof, and *the* bars thereof, and a thousand cubits of the wall unto the dung gate.

**14** And the dung gate repaired Malchijah *the* son of Rechab, *the* ruler of *the* district of Beth-haccherem; he built it, and set up *the* doors thereof, *the* bolts thereof, and *the* bars thereof.

**15** And the fountain gate repaired Shallun *the* son of Col-hozeh, *the* ruler of *the* district of Mizpah; he built it, and covered it, and set up *the* doors thereof, *the* bolts thereof, and *the* bars thereof, and the wall of the pool of <sup>13</sup>Shelah by the king's garden, even unto the stairs that go down from *the* city of David. **16** After him repaired Nehemiah *the* son of Azbuk, *the* ruler of half *the* district of Beth-zur, unto *the* place over against *the* sepulchres of David, and unto the pool that was made, and unto *the* house of the mighty men. **17** After him repaired the Levites, Rehum *the* son of Bani. Next unto him repaired Hashabiah, *the* ruler of half *the* district of Keilah, for his district. **18** After him repaired their brethren, Bavvai *the* son of Henadad, *the* ruler of half *the* district of Keilah. **19** And next to him repaired Ezer *the* son of Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah, another portion, over against *the* ascent to the armory at the turning of *the* wall. **20** After him Baruch *the* son of <sup>14</sup>Zabbai earnestly repaired another portion, from the turning of *the* wall unto *the* door of *the* house of Eliashib the high priest. **21** After him repaired Meremoth *the* son of Uriah *the* son of Hakkoz another portion, from *the* door of *the* house of Eliashib even to *the* end of *the* house of Eliashib. **22** And after him repaired the priests, *the* men of the <sup>15</sup>Plain. **23** After <sup>16</sup>them repaired Benjamin and Hasshub over against their house. After them repaired Azariah *the* son of Maaseiah *the* son of Ananiah beside his own house. **24** After him repaired Binnui *the* son of Henadad another portion, from *the* house of Azariah unto the turning of *the* wall, and unto the corner. **25** Palal *the* son of Uzai repaired over against the turning of *the* wall, and <sup>17</sup>the tower that standeth out from the upper

<sup>13</sup> In Is 8:6, Shiloah

<sup>14</sup> So Hb<sup>txt</sup>, Sept. Hb<sup>mg</sup>, Aram., Vg. read Zaccai (meaning, pure or, innocent) [זַּכַּי or, זַּכַּי]

<sup>15</sup> Or, Circuit.

<sup>16</sup> Hb. him (both times)

<sup>17</sup> Or, the upper tower ... from *the* house of the king,

house of the king, which *is* by *the* court of the guard. After him <sup>18</sup>Pedaiah *the* son of Parosh *repaired*. 26 (Now the Nethinim dwelt in Ophel, unto *the* place over against the water gate toward the east, and the tower *that* standeth out.) 27 After him the Tekoites repaired another portion, over against the great tower *that* standeth out, and unto the wall of Ophel.

28 Above the horse gate repaired the priests, every one over against his own house. 29 After them repaired Zadok *the* son of Immer over against his own house. And after him repaired Shemaiah *the* son of Shecaniah, *the* keeper of the east gate. 30 After him repaired Hananiah *the* son of Shelemiah, and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph, another portion. After him repaired Meshullam *the* son of Berechiah over against his chamber. 31 After him repaired Malchijah one of the goldsmiths unto *the* house of the Nethinim, and of the merchants, over against *the* gate of Hammiphqad, and to *the* <sup>19</sup>ascent of the corner. 32 And between *the* ascent of the corner and the sheep gate repaired the goldsmiths and the merchants.

4 But it came to pass that, when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews. 2 And he spake before his brethren and *the* army of Samaria, and said, What are these feeble Jews doing? <sup>20</sup>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 rubbish, seeing they are burned? 3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite *was* by him, and he said, Even that which they are building, if a <sup>21</sup>fox go up, he shall break down their stone wall.

4 Hear, O our God; for we are despised: and turn back their reproach upon their own head, and give them up for a spoil in a land of captivity; 5 and cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before thee; for they have provoked *thee* to anger before the builders. 6 So we built the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto half *the* height thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

7 But it came to pass *that*, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that <sup>22</sup>*the* repairing of *the* walls of Jerusalem went forward, *and* that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth; 8 and they conspired all of them together to come *and* fight against Jerusalem, and to cause confusion therein. 9 But we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them. 10 And

<sup>18</sup> Or, Pedaiah *the* son of Parosh (now ... Ophel) *repaired* unto *the* place over against the water gate

<sup>19</sup> Or, upper chamber. *And in* vs. 32.

<sup>20</sup> Or, will they leave to themselves *ought?*  
or, will men let them alone?

<sup>21</sup> Or, jackal

<sup>22</sup> *Hb.* healing went up upon *the* walls of Jerusalem,

Judah said, *The* strength of the bearers of burdens *is* 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, till we come into *the* midst of them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease. 12 And it came to pass that, when the Jews *that* dwelt by them came, they said unto us ten times <sup>23</sup>from all places, Ye must return unto us. 13 Therefore set I in *the* lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in the open places, I set *there* the people after *their* families with their swords, their spears, and their bows. 14 And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the <sup>24</sup>rulers, and to *the* rest of the people, Be ye not afraid of them: remember <sup>25</sup>Jehovah, *who* *is* great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

15 And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work. 16 And it came to pass from that day forth, *that* half of my servants wrought in the work, and half of them held the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the coats of mail; and the rulers *were* behind <sup>26</sup>all *the* house of Judah. 17 They that builded the wall and they *that* bare burdens laded themselves; *every* one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with *the* other held *his* weapon; 18 and the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and *so* builded. And he *that* sounded the trumpet *was* by me. 19 And I said unto 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 in what place soever ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us; our God will fight for us.

21 So we wrought in the work: and half of them held the spears from *the* rising of the morning till the stars appeared. 22 Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and may labor in the day. 23 So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor *the* men of the guard that followed me, none of us put off our clothes, <sup>27</sup>*but* each *had* his washwater bucket.

5 Then there arose a great cry of the people and of their wives against their brethren the Jews. 2 For there were that said, We, our sons and our daughters, *are*

<sup>23</sup> Or, From all places whence ye shall return *they* will be upon us.

<sup>24</sup> Or, deputies *And in* vs. 19.

<sup>25</sup> Sopherim *changed to* the Lord,

<sup>26</sup> Or, all *the* house of Judah *that* builded the wall.

17 And they *that* bare burdens laded themselves;

<sup>27</sup> RV<sup>txt</sup> reads, every one *went* with his weapon to the water. RV<sup>mg</sup> says, The text is obscure.

many: let us get grain, that we may eat and live. 3 *Some* also there were that said, We are mortgaging our fields, and our vineyards, and our houses: let us get grain, because of the dearth. 4 There were also that said, We have borrowed money for the king's tribute upon our fields and our vineyards. 5 Yet now our flesh is as *the* flesh of our brethren, our children as their children: and, lo, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be servants, and *some* of our daughters are brought into bondage *already*: neither *is it* in our power to help *it*; for other men have our fields and our vineyards.

6 And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words. 7 Then I consulted with myself, and contended with the nobles and the <sup>28</sup>rulers, and said unto them, Ye exact usury, every one of his brother. And I held a great assembly against them. 8 And I said unto them, We after our ability have <sup>29</sup>redeemed our brethren the Jews, *that* were sold unto the nations; and would ye even sell your brethren, and should they be sold unto us? Then held they their peace, and found never a word. 9 Also I said, The thing that ye do *is* no good: ought ye not to walk in *the* fear of our God, because of *the* reproach of the nations our enemies? 10 And I likewise, my brethren and my servants, do lend them money and grain. I pray you, let us leave off this usury. 11 Restore, I pray you, to them, even *this* day, their fields, their vineyards, their oliveyards, and their houses, also *the* hundredth *part* of the money, and of the grain, the new wine, and the oil, that ye exact of them. 12 Then said they, We will restore *them*, and will require nothing of them; so will we do, even as thou sayest. Then I called the priests, and took an oath of them, that they would do according to this promise. 13 Also I shook out my lap, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labor, that performeth not this promise; even thus be he shaken out, and emptied. And all the assembly said, Amen, and praised Jehovah. And the people did according to this promise.

14 Moreover from *the* day that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from *the* twentieth year even unto *the* thirty-second year of <sup>30</sup>Artaxerxes the king, *that is*, twelve years, I and my brethren have not eaten *the* bread of the governor. 15 But the former governors that *were* before me <sup>31</sup>were chargeable unto the people, and took of them bread and wine, <sup>32</sup>besides forty shekels of silver; yes, even their servants <sup>33</sup>bare rule over the people: but so did not I, because of *the*

<sup>28</sup> *Or*, deputies *And in vs. 17.*

<sup>29</sup> *Hb.* bought

<sup>30</sup> *Artaxerxes reigned until his 41<sup>st</sup> year, about the 10<sup>th</sup> month, according to various dated clay tablets.*

<sup>31</sup> *Or*, laid burdens upon the people,

<sup>32</sup> *Or*, at *the* rate of forty shekels of silver; *or*, afterward forty shekels of silver,

<sup>33</sup> *Or*, lorded over the people:

fear of God. 16 Yes, also I <sup>34</sup>continued in *the* work of this wall, neither bought we any land: and all my servants *were* gathered thither unto the work. 17 Moreover *there were* at my table, of the Jews and the rulers, a hundred fifty men, besides those *that* came unto us from among the nations that *were* round about us. 18 Now *that* which was prepared for one day *was* one ox *and* six choice sheep; also fowls were prepared for me, and once in ten days *a* store of all sorts of wine: yet for all this I demanded not *the* bread of the governor, because the bondage was heavy upon this people. 19 Remember unto me, O my God, for good, all that I have done for this people.

6 Now it came to pass, when it was reported to Sanballat and Tobiah, and to Geshem the Arabian, and unto the rest of our enemies, that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though even unto that time I had not set up *the* doors in the gates;) 2 that Sanballat and Geshem sent unto 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 unto them, saying, I *am* doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you? 4 And they sent unto me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner. 5 Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner a fifth time with an open letter in his hand, 6 wherein *was* written, It is reported among the nations, and <sup>35</sup>Gashmu saith *it*, *that* thou and the Jews think to rebel; for which cause thou art building the wall: and thou wouldest be their king, according to these words. 7 And thou hast also appointed prophets to preach of thee 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. 8 Then I sent unto him, saying, There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart. 9 For they all would have made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. But now, <sup>36</sup>*O God*, strengthen thou my hands.

10 And I went unto *the* house of Shemaiah *the* son of Delaiah *the* son of Mehetabel, who *was* shut up; and he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut *the* doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee; yes, in *the* night they will come to slay thee. 11 And I said, Should such a man as I flee? And who *is there* that, *being such* as I, <sup>37</sup>would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in. 12 And I discerned, and, lo, God had not sent him; but he pronounced *this* prophecy against me: and Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. 13 For this cause

<sup>34</sup> *Hb.* held fast to *the* work of this wall,

<sup>35</sup> *In vs. 1, and elsewhere,* Geshem

<sup>36</sup> *Or*, I will strengthen my hands.

<sup>37</sup> *Or*, could go into the temple and live

was he hired, that I should be afraid, and do so, and sin, and *that* they might have *matter* for an evil report, that they might reproach me. 14 Remember, O my God, Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and also the prophetess Noadiah, and *the* rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear.

15 So the wall was finished in *the* twenty-fifth *day* of <sup>38</sup>*the* month Elul, in fifty-two days. 16 And it came to pass, when all our enemies heard *thereof*, that all the nations that *were* about us <sup>39</sup>feared, and were much cast down in their *own* eyes; for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God. 17 Moreover in those days *the* nobles of Judah sent many letters unto Tobiah, and *the* letters of Tobiah came unto them. 18 For *there* were many in Judah sworn unto him, because he was *the* son-in-law of Shecaniah *the* son of Arah; and his son Jehohanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam *the* son of Berechiah to wife. 19 Also they spake of his good deeds before me, and reported my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to put me in fear.

7 Now it came to pass, when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the porters and the singers and the Levites were appointed, 2 that I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah *the* governor of the castle, charge over Jerusalem; for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many. 3 And I said unto them, Let not *the* gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun be hot; and while they stand *on* guard, let them shut the doors, and bar *ye* *them*: and appoint watches of *the* inhabitants of Jerusalem, every one in his watch, and every one *to* be over against his house. 4 Now the city *was* wide and large; but the people *were* few therein, and *the* houses *were* not builded.

5 And my God put into my heart to gather together the nobles, and the <sup>40</sup>rulers, and the people, that they might be reckoned by genealogy. And I found *the* book of the genealogy of them that came up at the first, and I found written therein: 6 These *are* *the* children of the province, that went up out of *the* captivity of those that had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar *the* king of Babylon had carried away, and that returned unto Jerusalem and to Judah, every one unto his city; 7 who came 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 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 Pahath-moab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred 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 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 twelve. 25 *The* children of Gibeon, ninety-five. 26 *The* men of Beth-lehem and Netophah, a hundred eighty-eight. 27 *The* men of Anathoth, a hundred twenty-eight. 28 *The* men of Beth-azmaveth, forty-two. 29 *The* men of Kiriath-jearim, 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 twenty-two. 32 *The* men of Beth-el 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 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 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 Pashhur, a thousand two hundred forty-seven. 42 *The* children of Harim, a thousand seventeen.

43 *The* Levites: *the* children of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, of *the* children of <sup>41</sup>Hodevah, seventy-four. 44 *The* singers: *the* children of Asaph, a hundred 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 thirty-eight.

46 *The* Nethinim: *the* children of Ziha, *the* children of Hasupha, *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 Salmi, 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 Paseah, 52 *the* children of Besai, *the* children of Meunim, *the* children of <sup>42</sup>Nephushesim, 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

<sup>38</sup> That is, the 6<sup>th</sup> month, shortly before the New Year.

<sup>39</sup> Hb<sup>mg</sup> reads saw,

<sup>40</sup> Or, deputies,

<sup>41</sup> Hb<sup>mg</sup> reads Hodeiah.

<sup>42</sup> Hb<sup>mg</sup> reads Nephishesim.

of Temah, 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, 59 *the* children of Shepatiah, *the* children of Hattil, *the* children of Pochereth-hazzebaim, *the* children of Amon. 60 All the Nethinim, and *the* children of Solomon's servants, *were* three hundred ninety-two.

61 And these *were* they that went up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer; but they could not show their fathers' houses, nor their seed, 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 Hobaiah, the children of Hakkoz, *the* children of Barzillai, who took a wife of *the* daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name. 64 These sought their register *among* those that *were* reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found: therefore <sup>43</sup>*were* they deemed polluted and put from the priesthood. 65 And the governor said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy *things*, till there stood *up* a priest with Urim and Thummim.

66 The whole assembly together was forty-two thousand three hundred sixty, 67 besides their men-servants and their maid-servants, of whom *there were* seven thousand three hundred thirty-seven: and they had two hundred forty-five singing men and singing women. 68 <sup>44</sup>*Their* horses *were* seven hundred thirty-six; their mules, two hundred forty-five; 69 *their* camels, four hundred thirty-five; *their* asses, six thousand seven hundred twenty.

70 And some from among the heads of fathers' *houses* gave unto the work. The governor gave to the treasury a thousand darics of gold, fifty basins, five hundred thirty priests' garments. 71 And *some* of the heads of fathers' *houses* gave into *the* treasury of the work twenty thousand <sup>45</sup>darics of gold, and two thousand two hundred <sup>46</sup>pounds of silver. 72 And *that* which *the* rest of the people gave *was* twenty thousand darics of gold, and two thousand pounds of silver, and sixty-seven priests' garments.

73 So the priests, and the Levites, and the porters, and the singers, and *some* of the people, and the Nethinim, and all Israel, dwelt in their cities.

And when the seventh month was come, *the* children of Israel *were* in their cities.

<sup>43</sup> *Hb.* They were polluted from the priesthood.

<sup>44</sup> Most *Hb* mss., Aram. *omit* vs. 68. (*likely scribal error*)

<sup>45</sup> *That is*, 20,000 darics = 166 kg (gold).

<sup>46</sup> *Hb.* maneh = 0.58 kg (2,200 maneh = 1.28 metric tons)

8 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the broad place that was before the water gate; and they spake unto 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 assembly, both men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon *the* first day of the seventh month. 3 And he read therein before the broad place that *was* before the water gate <sup>47</sup>from early morning until midday, in *the* presence of the men and the women, and of those that could understand; and *the* ears of all the people *were attentive* unto *the* book of the law. 4 And Ezra the scribe stood upon a <sup>48</sup>pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Uriah, and Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right *hand*; and on his left *hand*, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchijah, and Hashum, and Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam. 5 And Ezra opened the book in *the* sight of all the people; (for 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 the lifting up of their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped Jehovah with *their* faces to *the* ground. 7 Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people *stood* in their place. 8 And they read in the book, in the law of God, <sup>49</sup>distinctly; and they gave the sense, <sup>50</sup>so *that they* understood the reading.

9 And Nehemiah, who *was* the governor, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day *is* holy unto Jehovah your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law. 10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto him for whom nothing is prepared; for *this day is* holy unto our Lord: neither be ye grieved; for *the* joy of Jehovah is your <sup>51</sup>strength. 11 So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day *is* holy; neither be ye grieved. 12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

13 And on the second day were gathered together the heads of fathers' *houses* of all the people, the priests, and the Levites, unto Ezra the scribe, even to give attention to *the* words of the law. 14 And they found

<sup>47</sup> *Hb.* from the light until midday,

<sup>48</sup> *Hb.* tower

<sup>49</sup> *Or*, with an interpretation;

<sup>50</sup> *Or*, and caused *them* to understand the reading.

<sup>51</sup> *Or*, stronghold.

written in the law, how that Jehovah had commanded by Moses, that *the* children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month; 15 and that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and branches of wild olive, 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 themselves booths, every one upon *the* roof of his house, and in their courts, and in *the* courts of the house of God, and in *the* broad place of the water gate, and in *the* broad place of *the* gate of Ephraim. 17 And all the assembly of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and dwelt in the booths: for since *the* days of <sup>52</sup>Jeshua *the* son of Nun unto that day had not *the* children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness. 18 Also day by day, from the first day unto 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 <sup>53</sup>solemn assembly, <sup>54</sup>according unto the ordinance.

9 Now in *the* twenty-fourth day of this month *the* children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackcloth, and earth upon them. 2 And *the* seed of Israel separated themselves from all sons of foreigners, and stood and confessed their sins, and *the* iniquities of their fathers. 3 And they stood up in their place, and read in *the* book of *the* law of Jehovah their God a fourth part of the day; and *another* fourth part they confessed, and worshipped Jehovah their God. 4 Then stood up upon the stairs of the Levites, Jeshua, and Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Khenani, and cried with a loud voice unto Jehovah their God.

5 Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, Stand up *and* bless Jehovah your God from everlasting to everlasting; and <sup>55</sup>blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. 6 Thou *art* Jehovah, *even* thou alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of the heavens, with all their host, the earth and all *things* that *are* thereon, the seas and all that *is* in them, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee. 7 Thou *art* <sup>56</sup>Jehovah the God, who didst choose Abram, and broughtest him forth out of Ur of *the* Chaldees, and gavest him *the* name of Abraham, 8 and foundest his heart faithful before thee, and madest *a* covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, and the Perizzite, and the Jebusite, and the

<sup>52</sup> *In* Josh 1:1 *and elsewhere*, Joshua

<sup>53</sup> *Or*, closing festival,

<sup>54</sup> Nu 29:12, 35.

<sup>55</sup> *Or*, let them bless thy glorious name,

<sup>56</sup> *Or*, O Jehovah the God, who didst choose Abram,

Girgashite, to give *it* unto his seed, and hast performed thy words; for thou *art* righteous.

9 And thou sawest the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heardest their cry by *the* Red Sea, 10 and showedst signs and wonders upon Pharaoh, and on all his servants, and on all *the* people of his land; for thou knewest that they dealt proudly against them, and didst get thee a name, as *it is* this day. 11 And thou didst divide the sea before them, so that they went through *the* midst of the sea on the dry land; and their pursuers thou didst cast into *the* depths, as a stone into *the* mighty waters. 12 Moreover in a pillar of cloud thou leddest them by day; and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light in the way wherein they should go. 13 Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right ordinances and true laws, good statutes and commandments, 14 and madest known unto them thy holy sabbath, and commandedst them commandments, and statutes, and a law, by Moses thy servant, 15 and gavest them bread from heaven for their hunger, and broughtest forth water for them out of *the* rock for their thirst, and commandedst them that they should go in to possess the land which thou hadst <sup>57</sup>sworn to give them.

16 But they, even our fathers, dealt proudly, and hardened their neck, and hearkened not to thy commandments, 17 and refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them, but hardened their neck, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage. But thou *art* <sup>58</sup>a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness, and forsookest them not. 18 Yes, when they had made them a molten calf, and said, This *is* thy God that brought thee up out of Egypt, and had wrought great provocations; 19 yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness: the pillar of cloud departed not from over them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to show them light, and the way wherein they should go. 20 Thou gavest also thy good Spirit to instruct them, and withheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst. 21 Yes, forty years didst thou sustain them in the wilderness, *and* they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not. 22 Moreover thou gavest them kingdoms and peoples, <sup>59</sup>which thou didst allot after their portions: so they possessed the land of Sihon, even the land of *the* king of Heshbon, and the land of Og king of Bashan. 23 Their children also multipliedst thou as the stars of heaven, and broughtest them into the land concerning which thou didst say to their fathers, that they should go in to possess *it*. 24 So the children went in and possessed the land, and thou

<sup>57</sup> *Hb.* lifted up thy hand to give them.

<sup>58</sup> *Hb.* a God of forgivenesses,

<sup>59</sup> *Or*, and didst distribute them into *every* corner:

subduedst before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gavest them into their hands, with their kings, and the peoples of the land, that they might do with them as they would. 25 And they took fortified cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses full of all good things, cisterns hewn out, vineyards, and oliveyards, and fruit-trees in abundance: so they did eat, and were filled, and became fat, and delighted themselves in thy great goodness.

26 Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their back, and slew thy prophets that testified against them to turn them again unto thee, and they wrought great provocations. 27 Therefore thou deliveredst them into *the* hand of their adversaries, who distressed them: and in *the* time of their trouble, when they cried unto thee, thou heardest from heaven; and according to thy manifold mercies thou gavest them saviours who saved them out of *the* hand of their adversaries. 28 But after they had rest, they did evil again before thee; Therefore leftest thou them in *the* hand of their enemies, so that they had *the* dominion over them: yet when they returned, and cried unto thee, thou heardest from heaven; and many times didst thou deliver them according to thy mercies, 29 and testifiedst against them, that thou mightest bring them again unto thy law. Yet they dealt proudly, and hearkened not unto thy commandments, but sinned against thine ordinances, (which if a man do, he shall live in them,) and <sup>60</sup>withdrew *the* shoulder, and hardened their neck, and would not hear. 30 Yet many years didst thou bear with them, and testifiedst against them by thy Spirit through thy prophets: yet would they not give ear: therefore gavest thou them into *the* hand of *the* peoples of the lands. 31 Nevertheless in thy manifold mercies thou didst not make a full end of them, nor forsake them; for thou *art* a gracious and merciful God.

32 Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keepest covenant and lovingkindness, let not all the travail seem little before thee, that hath come upon us, on our kings, on our princes, and on our priests, and on our prophets, and on our fathers, and on all thy people, since *the* days of the kings of Assyria unto this day. 33 Howbeit thou *art* just in all that is come upon us; for thou hast dealt truly, but we have done wickedly; 34 neither have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers, kept thy law, nor hearkened unto thy commandments and thy testimonies wherewith thou didst testify against them. 35 For they have not served thee in their kingdom, and in thy great goodness that thou gavest them, and in the large and fat land which thou gavest before them, neither turned they from their wicked works. 36 Behold, we *are* servants this day, and as *for* the land that thou gavest unto our fathers to eat the fruit thereof and the good thereof, behold, we *are* servants in it.

<sup>60</sup> *Hb.* they gave a stubborn shoulder,

37 And it yieldeth much increase unto the kings whom thou hast set over us because of our sins: also they have power over our bodies, and over our cattle, at their pleasure, and we *are* in great distress. 38 And <sup>61</sup>yet for all this we make a <sup>62</sup>sure *covenant*, and write *it*; and our princes, our Levites, *and* our priests, <sup>63</sup>seal *unto it*.

10 Now those that sealed *were*: Nehemiah the governor, *the* son of Hakaliah, and Zedekiah, 2 Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah, 3 Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah, 4 Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch, 5 Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah, 6 Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch, 7 Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin, 8 Maaziah, Bilgai, Shemaiah; these *were* the priests. 9 And the Levites: namely, Jeshua *the* son of Azaniah, Binnui of *the* sons of Henadad, Kadmiel; 10 and their brethren, Shebaniah, Hodiah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan, 11 Mica, Rehob, Hashabiah, 12 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah, 13 Hodiah, Bani, Beninu. 14 *The* chiefs of the people: Parosh, Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani, 15 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai, 16 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin, 17 Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur, 18 Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai, 19 Hariph, Anathoth, <sup>64</sup>Nobai, 20 Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir, 21 Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua, 22 Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah, 23 Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub, 24 Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek, 25 Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah, 26 and Ahiah, Hanan, Anan, 27 Malluch, Harim, Baanah.

28 And *the* rest of the people the priests, the Levites, the porters, the singers, the Nethinim, and all they that had separated themselves from *the* peoples of the lands unto the law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, every one that had knowledge and understanding; 29 they clave to their brethren, 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 Jehovah our Lord, and his ordinances and his statutes; 30 and that we would not give our daughters unto *the* peoples of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons; 31 and *if* *the* peoples of the land bring wares or any grain on the sabbath day to sell, *that* we would not buy of them on the sabbath, or on a holy day; and *that* we would forego the seventh year, and *the* exaction of every debt.

32 Also we made ordinances for us, to charge ourselves yearly with the third part of a shekel for *the* service of *the* house of our God; 33 for the showbread, and *for* the continual meal-offering, and *for* the continual burnt-offering, *for* the sabbaths, *for* the new moons, for the set feasts, and for the holy *things*, and for the sin-offerings to make atonement for Israel, and *for* all *the* work of *the* house of our God. 34 And we cast lots, the priests, the Levites, and the people, for the

<sup>61</sup> *Or*, because of all this

<sup>62</sup> *Or*, faithful *covenant*,

<sup>63</sup> *Hb.* *are* at the sealing.

<sup>64</sup> *Hb*<sup>mg</sup> reads Nebai,

wood-offering, to bring it into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at times appointed, 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 ground, and the firstfruits of all fruit of all manner of trees, year by year, unto the house of Jehovah; 36 also the firstborn of our sons, and of our cattle, as it is written in the law, and the firstlings of our herds and of our flocks, to bring to the house of our God, unto the priests that minister in the house of our God; 37 and that we should bring the firstfruits of our <sup>65</sup>dough, and our heave-offerings, and the fruit of all manner of trees, <sup>66</sup>the new wine and the oil, unto the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and the tithes of our ground unto the Levites; for they, the Levites, live from the tithes in all cities of our tillage. 38 And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites tithes: and the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes unto the house of our God, to the chambers, into the treasure-house. 39 For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the heave-offering of the grain, of the new wine, and of the oil, unto the chambers, where are the vessels of the sanctuary, and the priests that minister, and the porters, and the singers: and we will not forsake the house of our God.

11 And the princes of the people dwelt in Jerusalem: the rest of the people also cast lots, to bring one of ten to dwell in Jerusalem the holy city, and nine parts in the other cities. 2 And the people blessed all the men that willingly offered themselves to dwell in Jerusalem.

3 Now these are the chiefs of the province that dwelt in Jerusalem: but in the cities of Judah dwelt every one in his possession in their cities, to wit, Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the Nethinim, and the children of Solomon's servants. 4 And in Jerusalem dwelt certain of the children of Judah, and of the children of Benjamin. Of the children of Judah: Athaiah the son of Uzziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalalel, of the children of Perez; 5 and Maaseiah the son of Baruch, the son of Col-hozeh, the son of Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, the son of the Shilonite. 6 All the sons of Perez that dwelt in 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 Jeshaiiah. 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 Hassenuah was second over the city.

<sup>65</sup> Or, coarse meal,

<sup>66</sup> Or, the vintage and Similarly in vs. 39.

10 Of the priests: Jedaiah the son of Joiarib, Jachin, 11 Seraiah the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, the ruler of the house of God, 12 and their brethren that did the work of the house, 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 Pashhur, the son of Malchijah, 13 and his brethren, chiefs of fathers' houses, two hundred forty-two; and Amashsai the son of Azarel, the son of Ahzai, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer, 14 and their brethren, mighty men of valor, a hundred twenty-eight: and their overseer was Zabdiel, <sup>67</sup>the son of Haggadolim.

15 And of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni; 16 and Shabbethai and Jozabad, of the chiefs of the Levites, who had the oversight of the outward business of the house of God; 17 and Mattaniah the son of Mica, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, who was the chief to begin the thanksgiving in prayer, and Bakbukiah, the second among his brethren; 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 Moreover the porters, Akkub, Talmon, and their brethren, that kept watch at the gates, were a hundred seventy-two. 20 And the residue of Israel, of the priests, the Levites, were in all the cities of Judah, every one in his inheritance. 21 But the Nethinim dwelt in Ophel: and Ziha and Gishpa were over the Nethinim.

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 Mica, of the sons of Asaph, the singers, over the business of the house of God. 23 For there was a commandment from the king concerning them, and <sup>68</sup>a settled provision for the singers, as every day required. 24 And Pethahiah the son of Meshezabel, of the children of Zerah the son of Judah, was at the king's hand in all matters concerning the people.

25 And as for the villages, with their fields, some of the children of Judah dwelt in Kiriath-arba and the <sup>69</sup>towns thereof, and in Dibon and the towns thereof, and in Jekabzeel and the villages thereof, 26 and in Jeshua, and in Moladah, and Beth-pelet, 27 and in Hazar-shual, and in Beer-sheba and the towns thereof, 28 and in Ziklag, and in Meconah and in the towns thereof, 29 and in En-rimmon, and in Zorah, and in Jarmuth, 30 Zanoah, Adullam, and their villages, Lachish and the fields thereof, Azekah and the towns thereof. So they encamped from Beer-sheba unto the valley of Hinnom. 31 The children of Benjamin also dwelt from Geba onward, at Michmash and Aija, and at Beth-el and the towns thereof, 32 at Anathoth, Nob,

<sup>67</sup> Or, one of the great men.

<sup>68</sup> Or, a sure ordinance concerning the singers,

<sup>69</sup> Hb. daughters And so throughout vss. 25-31.

Ananiah, 33 Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim, 34 Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat, 35 Lod, and Ono, <sup>70</sup>the valley of craftsmen. 36 And of the Levites, certain courses in Judah were joined to Benjamin.

12 Now these are the priests and the Levites that went up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, 2 Amariah, Malluch, Hattush, 3 Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth, 4 Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah, 5 Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah, 6 Shemaiah, and Joiarib, Jedaiah, 7 Sallu, Amok, Hilkiah, Jedaiah. These were the chiefs of the priests and of their brethren in the days of Jeshua.

8 Moreover the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, who was over <sup>71</sup>the thanksgiving, he and his brethren. 9 Also Bakbukiah and Unno, their brethren, were over against them according to their offices. 10 And Jeshua begat Joiakim, and Joiakim begat Eliashib, and Eliashib begat Joiada, 11 and Joiada begat Jonathan, and Jonathan begat Jaddua.

12 And in the days of Joiakim were priests, heads of fathers' houses: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah; 13 of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan; 14 of <sup>72</sup>Malluchi, 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, Nethanel.

22 As for the Levites, in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, and <sup>73</sup>Johanah, and Jaddua, there were recorded the heads of fathers' houses; also the priests, in the reign of Darius the Persian. 23 The sons of Levi, heads of fathers' houses, were written in the book of the chronicles, even until the days of Johanah the son of Eliashib. 24 And the chiefs of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brethren over against them, to praise and give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of

<sup>70</sup> Or, Ge-haharashim See 1Chr 4:14.

<sup>71</sup> Or, the choirs,

<sup>72</sup> Hb<sup>mg</sup> reads Melicu,

<sup>73</sup> Johanah evidently later became the high priest: From a petition of Jews in Elephantine, Egypt, "In the month of Tammuz in the 14<sup>th</sup> year of King Darius... We have also sent a letter before now... to our lord and to the high priest Johanah and his colleagues the priests in Jerusalem and to Ostanah the brother of Anani and the nobles of the Jews.... We have also set the whole matter forth in a letter in our name to Delaiah and Shelemiah, the sons of Sanballat the governor of Samaria. Also, Arsames knew nothing of all that was done to us. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of Marheshwan, year 17 of King Darius. [J.B. Pritchard, The Ancient Near East, I; p. 279-281]

God, watch next to watch. 25 Mattaniah, and Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, Akkub, were porters keeping the watch at the store-houses 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 <sup>74</sup>plain round about Jerusalem, and from the villages of the Netophathites; 29 also from Beth-gilgal, and out of the fields of Geba and Azmaveth: for the singers had builded them villages round about Jerusalem. 30 And the priests and the Levites purified themselves; and they 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 that gave thanks and went in procession; whereof one went on the right hand upon the wall toward the dung gate: 32 and after them went Hoshaiiah, 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: Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph; 36 and his brethren, Shemaiah, and Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, and Judah, Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God; and Ezra the scribe was before them. 37 And by the fountain gate, and straight before them, they went up by the stairs of the city of David, at the ascent of the wall, above the house of David, even unto the water gate eastward.

38 And the other company of them that gave thanks went to meet them, and I after them, with the half of the people, upon the wall, above the tower of the furnaces, even unto the broad wall, 39 and above the gate of Ephraim, and by the old gate, and by the fish gate, and the tower of Hananel, and the tower of <sup>75</sup>Hammeah, even unto the sheep gate: and they stood still in the gate of the guard. 40 So stood the two companies of them that gave thanks in the house of God, and I, and the half of the <sup>76</sup>rulers with me; 41 and the priests, Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elieonai, 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 And they offered great sacrifices that day,

<sup>74</sup> Or, Circuit

<sup>75</sup> Or, The Hundred,

<sup>76</sup> Or, deputies

and rejoiced; for God had made them rejoice with great joy; and the women also and the children rejoiced: so that *the* joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off.

44 And on that day were men appointed over the chambers for the treasures, for the heave-offerings, for the firstfruits, and for the tithes, to gather into them, according to *the* fields of the cities, *the* portions<sup>77</sup> appointed by the law for the priests and Levites: for Judah rejoiced for the priests and for the Levites that<sup>78</sup> waited. 45 And they kept *the* charge of their God, and *the* charge of the purification, and *so did* the singers and the porters, according to *the* commandment of David, *and* of Solomon his son. 46 For in *the* days of David and Asaph of old<sup>79</sup> *there was* a chief of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving unto 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, as every day required: and they set apart *that which was* for the Levites; and the Levites set apart *that which was* for the sons of Aaron.

13 On that day they read in *the* book of Moses in *the* audience of the people; and therein was found written,<sup>80</sup> that an Ammonite and a Moabite should not enter into the assembly of God for ever, 2 because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, to curse them: howbeit our God turned the curse into a blessing. 3 And it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated from Israel all *the* mixed multitude.

4 Now before this, Eliashib the priest, who was appointed over *the*<sup>81</sup> chambers of *the* house of our God, *being* allied unto Tobiah, 5 had prepared for him a great chamber, where aforetime they laid the meal-offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of grain, the new wine, and the oil, *which were* given by commandment to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and *the* heave-offerings for the priests. 6 But in all this *time* I was not at Jerusalem; for in *the* thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I went unto the king: and after certain days asked I leave of the king, 7 and I came to Jerusalem, and understood the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber in *the* courts of the house of God. 8 And it grieved me sore: therefore I cast forth all the household stuff of Tobiah out of the chamber. 9 Then I commanded, and they cleansed the chambers: and thither brought I again *the* vessels of the house of God, with the meal-offerings and the frankincense.

10 And I perceived that *the* portions of the Levites had not been given *them*; so that the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled every one to his

field. 11 Then contended I with the<sup>82</sup> rulers, and said, Why is the house of God forsaken? And I gathered them together, and set them in their place. 12 Then brought all Judah *the* tithes of the grain and the new wine and the oil unto 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; for they were counted faithful, and their business *was* to distribute unto their brethren. 14 Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for *the* house of my God, and for *the* observances thereof.

15 In those days saw I in Judah *some men* treading winepresses on the sabbath, and bringing in<sup>83</sup> sheaves, and lading asses *therewith*; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all *manner of* burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day: and I testified *against them* in *the* day wherein they sold victuals. 16 There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, who brought in fish, and all manner of wares, and sold on the sabbath unto *the* children of Judah, and in Jerusalem. 17 Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day? 18 Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath.

19 And it came to pass that, when *the* gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut, and commanded that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and *some* of my servants set I over the gates, *that* there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day. 20 So the merchants and sellers of all kind of wares lodged without Jerusalem once or twice. 21 Then I testified against them, and said unto them, Why lodge ye<sup>84</sup> about the wall? if ye do so *again*, I will lay hands on you. From that time forth came they no *more* on the sabbath. 22 And I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves, and *that* they should come *and* keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day.

Remember unto me, O my God, this also, and spare me according to *the* greatness of thy lovingkindness.

23 In those days also saw I the Jews *that*<sup>85</sup> had married women of Ashdod, of Ammon, *and* of Moab: 24 and their children spake 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<sup>86</sup> cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made

<sup>77</sup> *Hb.* of the law for the priests and the Levites:

<sup>78</sup> *Hb.* stood.

<sup>79</sup> *Hb*<sup>mg</sup> reads *there were* chiefs of the singers,

<sup>80</sup> Dt 23:3-5.

<sup>81</sup> *Hb.* chamber

<sup>82</sup> *Or,* deputies

<sup>83</sup> *Or,* the heaps of grain,

<sup>84</sup> *Hb.* before

<sup>85</sup> *Hb.* had made to dwell *with them* women

<sup>86</sup> *Or,* reviled them,

them swear by God, *saying*, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons, or for yourselves. 26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, and he was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did foreign women cause to sin. 27 Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, to trespass against our God in marrying foreign women?

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, <sup>87</sup>because they have defiled the priesthood, and *the* covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites.

30 Thus cleansed I them from <sup>88</sup>all foreigners, and appointed charges for the priests and for the Levites, every one in his work; 31 and for the wood-offering, at times appointed, and for the firstfruits.

Remember me, O my God, for good.

*End of the Book of Nehemiah*

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<sup>87</sup> *Hb.* for *the* defilings of the priesthood,

<sup>88</sup> *Or*, everything foreign,