



Week 2 – Days 7-14 - NOTES



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NEHEMIAH 11 – 12

THE SHOUT HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

The diligent student of God’s Word will always be rewarded. The following chapters contain way too many names and most of them unpronounceable, but let’s look a bit deeper.

Let’s begin with asking the question, “Why was the city of Jerusalem so important?” Nehemiah knew the nation of Israel could never be strong as long as Jerusalem was weak; but Jerusalem would not be strong unless the people were willing to sacrifice. Many had returned to territorial lands that their families had owned and they would commute to Jerusalem when necessary. This was convenient and probably a bit safer because the capital city was the focal point of all of Israel’s enemies. Nehemiah called on the people to make a sacrifice to the Lord for the sake of their city. He called them to a threefold sacrifice; the church today needs to make a similar commitment.

1. We must give ourselves to the Lord (Neh. 11:1-12:26)

- vs. 1-2 – Some citizens volunteered willingly while others had to be “drafted.” Previously we read about how the people tithed of their produce and here we see Nehemiah tithing the people. I wonder what would happen in our day if ten per cent of the Rock was asked





to relocate in order to strengthen and extend the work of the Lord.

Now a word about all those names – in listing these names, Nehemiah was giving evidence of his sincere appreciation for each individual who assisted in the work. This reminds us that God sees everything, even if others fail to recognize your service. We must remember for whom we do our work – “as unto the Lord;” always keep in mind that God sorts it all out in the end. I’m sure He has a lot of surprises awaiting us, with little hints like ... “the first shall be last” and the story of the widow’s mite.

- vs. 23 – Notice that here we see even the King of Persia helped support the ministry. This testifies of the character of Nehemiah; imagine the respect the King must have had that he too, said ... “count me in!”
- vs. 25 – Kiriath Arba was an older name for Hebron.
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2. We must give our praise to God (Neh 12:27-42)

Up to this time we have seen workers and watchers on the wall but now Nehemiah and Ezra have assigned worshipers. Note the emphasis on joyful praise – singing is mentioned eight times in this chapter, thanksgiving six times, rejoicing seven times and musical instruments three times.





vs. 31 – Why did they need to walk around the walls? In that day, to walk a piece of property meant to claim it as your own. God said to Abraham, “Arise, walk through the land ... for I will give it to you” (Gen. 13:17); and He said to Joshua, “Every place the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that I have given to you” (Josh. 1:3). This joyful walk around the walls was their way of saying, “We claim from our God all that He has for us, just as Abraham and Joshua claimed this land by faith!”

Their walking on top of the wall (vv.31, 38) visually demonstrated that the walls were strong, a rejoinder to Tobiah’s earlier mocking claim that a fox jumping on the wall would cause it to fall (4:3). Notice that the people no longer were carrying spears, swords or bows; the walls were now in place and the people were safe. Imagine what Israel’s opponents must have seen...two large processions marching and singing on the walls; no doubt quite impressive.

Note – the people offered their praise thankfully (Neh. 12:24, 27, 31, 38, 46), joyfully (vv. 27, 35-35). It was not a time for muted meditative worship; it was a time for “letting it rip” and praising God “even more undignified than this.” And notice it was not just the “professional musicians” who expressed praise to God, for the women and children also joined in the singing (Neh. 12:43). They had heard the Word at the Water Gate (8:2), so it was only right that they now express their worship; for learning the Word and worshipping the Lord must go together (Col. 3:12). We must never permit the accomplished ministry of worship leaders to take the place of





our spontaneous celebration of God's goodness. Otherwise we become spectators instead of participants!

- vs. 43 – So incredible was this praise that it was “heard afar off;” can you imagine?

3. We must give our gifts to God. (Neh. 12:44-47)

The result of this joyful explosion was that the people now had a heart to give. Tithes, offerings, whatever – the storehouses were full, the people gave “not grudgingly or of necessity” but joyfully and gratefully (2 Cor. 9:7). The great missionary leader, J. Hudson Taylor, used to say, “When God's work is done in God's way for God's glory, it will not lack God's support.”





MILES' SERMON OUTLINE

How to Make the Dream Come True
Celebrating Together - Nehemiah 12

These verses record the celebration of the completion of the wall. You will notice at least 6 elements in this grand celebration:

1. Great _____ (v. 27)
2. Great _____ (v. 27)
3. Great _____ (v. 27-28, 31,42b-43)
4. Great _____ (v. 30)
5. Great _____ (v. 43)
6. Great _____ (v. 43)

God wants His people to celebrate His mighty hand of blessing today. He wants us to be able to celebrate the vision and purpose He has given us for the future. When does celebration come to God's people? Celebration comes when:

- I. TOGETHER WE _____ IN A
_____ OF UNITY





II. TOGETHER WE _____ THE _____ OF
GOD

III. TOGETHER WE _____ FOR A
_____ PURPOSE

IV. TOGETHER WE _____ A
_____ FUTURE

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (1 1-12)

1. Why did Jerusalem need to be strong?
2. Why would the people not want to resettle in the city of Jerusalem?
3. What were the duties of the Levites?
4. How can we in our day give ourselves to God?
5. Why did the people march around the walls? Give at least two different reasons.
6. What were the results of this time of celebration?





FIFTY TWO DAY CHECKLIST

COMMUNITY

- Accountability Prayer Partners.
- Prayer for unsaved friends.
- Everyone invite someone to church.
- How is your group going to celebrate Thanksgiving?
- Plan a Small Group Christmas party.

SERVICE

- Remember Toys for Joy.
- Remember Fire Victims.
- Remember the Rock's Food and Clothing Drive.
- Where can you serve in your neighborhood?

STUDY

- Daily reading schedule.
- Memory Verse.
- Nehemiah 11 & 12 – notes.

