

# Let's Worship God

26th-31st August 2019  
Nehemiah





### **Monday - Nehemiah 11:1-9 - Leaders**

Although most of the activity mentioned so far in the book of Nehemiah has taken place within the city of Jerusalem, there were many of the people who were living in the towns and villages surrounding the city. Nehemiah now instituted a plan to ensure that the Holy city was adequately populated.

The temple had been built under Ezra and the wall rebuilt under Nehemiah, but the city still needed more people. There was a great deal of work to be done to rebuild a city that had been so extensively destroyed and willing people would be needed for the work. The wall had been built but there was a need for people to man the defences in case of attack.

The leaders of the people had set a good example by residing in the city. It is always important that leaders, especially spiritual leaders, set an example for others to follow; if the leaders were not prepared to live in Jerusalem, they could hardly expect the people to do so! Christian leaders should never expect the people to do something they are not prepared to do themselves.

Nehemiah and the rulers of the people decided to cast lots and bring one tenth of the population into the city. This displayed an amazing commitment on the part of the people to be willing to leave the comfort and security of their own surroundings and begin a new life in what must have been a strange and alien environment. These people were going to do something new in order that the work of God would not be hindered. They had a willing spirit even though they may not have chosen themselves to live in Jerusalem.

Are Christian people as willing to leave the comfort of their own congregation to begin a new work or to strengthen a weak congregation as the people in this passage were?

### **Questions**

1. How did the people of Israel follow the example of their leaders?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that we would follow the example of our leaders.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

“And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.” Nehemiah 12:43b

**Praise: Psalm 30 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



## **Tuesday - Nehemiah 11:10-36 - A Pioneering Spirit**

As well as those chosen by lot to move into Jerusalem there were some who voluntarily decided to move into the city. It certainly appears that verse 2 is referring not to those chosen by lot, but to these other individuals who saw the need and decided to act. These volunteers were commended or blessed by the rest of the people. These people demonstrated the same kind of characteristics and courage needed in all times by those who seek to do a work for God, such as:

a. A willingness to give up previous comfort and security and embrace a new way of life in different circumstances.

b. Those who moved to Jerusalem had to change their social priorities - they left friends and families behind in their old towns and villages and had to find a new social circle in Jerusalem.

c. To live in a city that had been abandoned for seventy years would be to face challenges and hard work and possibly a struggle to make ends meet.

d. Although Jerusalem had restored walls, it was still going to be a target for many enemies round about and there would be many dangers that would have to be faced by those who were residents of the city.

The volunteers going into Jerusalem needed to be imbued with something of a pioneering spirit that would enable them to endure a measure of hardship and discomfort so that the work of God would progress and not be hindered.

There is a challenge here for every child of God! We may never be asked to leave our homes or even to move out of our congregation to begin a new work, but do we have the pioneering spirit of these volunteers and the willingness to put up with discomfort, danger, and hardship for the sake of the kingdom of God?

### **Questions**

1. Why does service to God require courage?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that God would give you courage as you seek to serve him.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

“And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.” Nehemiah 12:43b

**Praise: Psalm 31 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



### **Wednesday - Nehemiah 12:1-26 - Our Work in the Kingdom**

It may seem from an initial reading of chapter 12 that the real importance in the chapter is not to be found until we come to verse 27 with the description of the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem. There is no doubt that this was a very significant event in the history of Nehemiah and of the returned exiles, but it would be a mistake to ignore the teaching of the first twenty-six verses and fail to learn the lessons contained there.

The long list of the returned priests and Levites would not seem to have any great interest for Christians living in the twenty-first century, but this list has at least two significant lessons to teach:

1. Although the names mean nothing to us and possibly have little to teach us with regard to the history of the people of God, the very fact that they are included in the infallible Word of God does mean that God intends us to learn something from them. The Bible is the record of God's dealings with men and so although the names are unknown to us, they were known to God and important in the working out of his purposes. We may not be known outside our own limited circle, but as we faithfully serve God we are known to him and important in the work of the kingdom.

2. The list deals with the priests and Levites who went to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel in 538 and with their descendants in Ezra's day, thus showing a continuity spanning almost a century from 538 to 444 - from Zerubbabel to Nehemiah. All these faithful men had a part to play although many would never live to see the completion of the wall and join in the joyous celebration at the dedication. This is an example of what Jesus says centuries later, that one sows and another reaps (John 4:37).

### **Questions**

1. What encouragement can we receive from reading these long lists of names?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that we would be faithful in our service to God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

“And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.” Nehemiah 12:43b

**Praise: Psalm 32 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



## **Thursday - Nehemiah 12:27-30 - The Dedication**

After all the hard work of building and defending the wall from the attacks of the enemies, the time had come at last for the people to dedicate the rebuilt wall of the city. There was an obvious understanding that they had been building not just to secure their own prosperity, safety, and future, but that they were building for the honour and glory of God and to make sure that the Holy city of Jerusalem would be a safe place in which the people of God would be able to worship their God. Two lessons we can learn from this passage are:

1. The completed wall was to be celebrated with praise and so those appointed by God to lead the praise of his people, together with the singers, were brought from wherever they resided into the city in preparation for the great act of dedication. It is a great blessing from the sovereign God that he gives such gifts to his people to enable them to lead God's people in praise and these gifts should always be recognised and made a matter of grateful thanks to God. Although there are special people here charged with the responsibility of singing, in New Testament praise the whole of the congregation is to offer the 'sacrifice of praise' (Heb. 13:15) - there is no requirement to have a beautiful voice, just a dedicated heart that rejoices in praising the Lord.

2. Before the priests and the Levites could adequately lead the people of God in praise and thanksgiving, they had to first purify themselves and then the people. Here there is a fundamental principle. Without heart purity, no matter how tuneful and majestic the singing of praise might be, it will not please the Holy God. We have been told that the only worship acceptable to God is that which is offered in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). An acceptable approach to God requires clean hands and a pure heart (Psalm 24:3-4).

## **Questions**

1. Does God require us to have special musical gifts to sing praise to him?
2. What makes our worship acceptable to God?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the preparation of your heart for worship on Sunday.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

“And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.” Nehemiah 12:43b

**Praise: Psalm 33 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# NEHEMIAH

pray | plan | build

## Friday - Nehemiah 12:31-43 - Joyful Worship

Once both priests and people had been purified, Nehemiah organised a procession around the walls. This procession was to be led by two choirs who would go around the city walls in opposite directions until they met at the temple of the Lord. This great act of dedication and thanksgiving was to be public; even those who had opposed the work and had sought to prevent it happening, were to see and hear how God had so marvellously caused the work on the walls to be completed. The great triumphs of God's works should never be hidden away from the sight of men, whether that be the building of places for God's worship or the great glories and triumphs of grace in the salvation of sinners. We should never be ashamed to let the whole world know of what God is doing.

There are two very significant things seen in the singing and offering of sacrifice in this service of praise:

1. Every aspect of the worship was carried out with great joy and rejoicing, so much so that the sound of the rejoicing could be heard 'far away' (v.45). Praise and thanksgiving to God should always bring joy to the people of God - worship is a joyful activity (Psalm 122:1). Not that that implies that it should be raucous or noisy, but simply that to worship the God who has done so much for us should bring great pleasure and satisfaction to the heart of the true believer.

2. One very significant thing mentioned in this passage is that the women and children also rejoiced. It is so important to recognise that joyous worship is to be participated in by the whole covenant community - no-one is to be excluded. It is sad that there are some who believe that small children should not be in worship services as they can be disruptive or noisy. The truth is that joyful worship is for all and children do learn how they should behave in worship.

## Questions

1. What should our attitude be in worship?
2. Who is to participate in the worship of God?

## Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the joy it is to worship God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

“And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.” Nehemiah 12:43b

**Praise: Psalm 34 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



## **Saturday - Nehemiah 12:44-47 - The Functioning of the Body**

When the apostle Paul was writing to the church in Corinth, he reminded them that the church of the Lord Jesus Christ as a body was made up of many parts and although all did not have the same function or the same prominence, they were all vital in the proper functioning of the body (1 Cor. 12:1-31). That is precisely what is seen in this section of chapter 12.

The chapter speaks of those who had been given public and prominent roles in the service of dedication: the priests, Levites, singers and musicians, but it also mentions those whose role was seemingly more mundane and less prominent. In verse 44 we read of those who were appointed to be in charge of the store-rooms for the contributions, first fruits, and tithes. There are important lessons for us here:

1. It is the duty of the people of God to give for the support of the work of the Lord. Old Testament law made provision for the priests and Levites to be supported by the tithes of the people and the New Testament continues to enunciate the same principle. Deut. 18:1-8; 1 Cor. 9:13-14.

2. There are many different tasks to be performed in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ and every one has merit and significance. It was not just the priests and the Levites who were seen to be important in the work of the sanctuary, but also the singers and the gatekeepers. Each one of these was considered to be serving the Lord as they carried out their respective functions. It must surely be so in every congregation of God's people. The minister and elders have their responsibilities in teaching and ruling, the deacons in administration and temporal care, the precentors in leading the praise, the Sabbath school teachers in instructing the young. No less important are those who make the tea and clean the building - all are serving together for the honour and glory of God.

## **Questions**

1. What ways did the people support the work of God?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

"And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away." Nehemiah 12:43b

**Praise: Psalm 35 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

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