

# Harvesters, Perimeter Church

## “Nehemiah: Faithfulness leading to urban renewal”

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# Where we have been

- February 4, 2024 - Introduction Nehemiah 1:1-13 “Nehemiah: Faithfulness amid the Fragments”
- February 11, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness to one’s call” (Nehemiah 1:1-2:8)
- February 18, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness in one’s calling” (Nehemiah 2:1-3:32)
- February 25, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness in the face of opposition, part 1” (Nehemiah 4:1-7:72)
- March 3, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness in the face of opposition, part 2” (Nehemiah 4:1-7:72)
- March 10, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness rooted in the Word” (Nehemiah 7:73-10:39)
- March 17, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness leading to urban renewal” (Nehemiah 11:1-12:47)
- March 24, 2024 - “Nehemiah: Faithfulness for the long haul” (Nehemiah 13) Wrap-up

# Review

## 539 BC – First Return

1. Led by Zerubbabel
2. King - Cyrus
3. Goal - rebuild the temple

## 458 BC – Second Return

1. Led by Ezra
2. King - Artaxerxes
3. Goal – retrain God's people

## 445 BC – Third Return

1. Led by Nehemiah
2. King - Artaxerxes
3. Goal - rebuild the walls

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

## A Few Final Important Learning Points of the Covenant Agreement

1. Under none of the God's covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and the new covenant church are people saved by their works of obedience; Justification is always and only by faith in the Lord's promises. (Rom. 4-12)
2. The people could not be back in a covenant relationship with God without the prior steps of God's redemptive plan to 1) restore the temple, 2) unite the people with their strength coming from the joy in the Lord, 3) unite the remnant as a team to rebuild the wall and secure the city, 4) overcome opposition through prayer and perseverance 5) have people confess their sins, and 6) recommit to the original covenant of the Law. All of this through God's steadfast love, mercy grace, and faithfulness in His promises and in His Word. Nehemiah's love of the Lord and love of the people to God's glory allows him to be a true servant leader as part of this redemptive plan.

# Nehemiah 7:73-10:39 Faithfulness Rooted in The Word

**“We will not neglect the house of our God.”(Neh. 10:39 ESV)**

1.This final verse of this section in the book of Nehemiah is a pledge to maintain the temple and its services as the place of worship, prayer, and intercession with the Lord.

2. This promise demonstrates the renewed spiritual commitment of the people to the Lord who has been ever faithful in his promises in their history.

3. The rebuilding of the House of God, physically, spiritually, and relationally is a major theme in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.

# Spirit led renewal leads to

1. Repentance
2. Prayer
3. Missional Living
4. Joy
5. Music and Song

“We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone.”  
- Martin Luther

“The only kind of faith that counts for justification is the kind that produces love, that bears the fruit of love. The faith that alone justifies is never alone, but always yielding transforming fruit.”  
- John Piper

# Nehemiah 11:1-6

*<sup>1</sup> Now the leaders of the people lived in Jerusalem. And the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to live in Jerusalem the holy city, while nine out of ten remained in the other towns. <sup>2</sup> And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered to live in Jerusalem.*

<sup>3</sup> These are the chiefs of the province who **lived in Jerusalem**; but in the towns of Judah everyone lived on his property in their towns: Israel, the priests, the Levites, the temple servants, and the descendants of Solomon's servants. <sup>4</sup> And **in Jerusalem lived** certain of the sons of Judah and of the sons of Benjamin. Of the sons of Judah: Athaiah the son of Uzziah, son of Zechariah, son of Amariah, son of Shephatiah, son of Mahalalel, of the sons of Perez; <sup>5</sup> and Maaseiah the son of Baruch, son of Col-hozeh, son of Hazaiah, son of Adaiah, son of Joiarib, son of Zechariah, son of the Shilonite. <sup>6</sup> All the sons of Perez **who lived in Jerusalem** were 468 valiant men.

# Spirit led (Missional) living leads us to

1. Go places we otherwise wouldn't go
2. Say things we wouldn't otherwise say
3. Do things we wouldn't otherwise do
4. Risk things we wouldn't otherwise risk
5. Give things we wouldn't otherwise give
6. Love those we wouldn't otherwise love



# Observations

How does this connect to Jesus?

1. Matthew 1:1-3
2. Judah, Benjamin, Levi

What about this relocation project?

1. Urban blight after 142 years
2. About 10,000 move into the city (3,044 males, plus families). 10% of 100k

# Nehemiah 11:7-14

<sup>7</sup> And these are the sons of Benjamin: Sallu the son of Meshullam, son of Joed, son of Pedaiah, son of Kolaiah, son of Maaseiah, son of Ithiel, son of Jeshaiiah, <sup>8</sup> and his brothers, men of valor, 928. <sup>9</sup> Joel the son of Zichri was their overseer; and Judah the son of **Hassenuah was second over the city.**

<sup>10</sup> Of the priests: Jedaiah the son of Joiarib, Jachin, <sup>11</sup> Seraiah the son of Hilkiyah, son of Meshullam, son of Zadok, son of Meraioth, son of Ahitub, ruler of the house of God, <sup>12</sup> and their brothers who did the work of the house, 822; and Adaiah the son of Jeroham, son of Pelaliah, son of Amzi, son of Zechariah, son of Pashhur, son of Malchijah, <sup>13</sup> and his brothers, heads of fathers' houses, 242; and Amashsai, the son of Azarel, son of Ahzai, son of Meshillemoth, son of Immer, <sup>14</sup> and their brothers, mighty men of valor, 128; their overseer was Zabdiel the son of Haggedolim.

# Nehemiah 11:15-21

<sup>15</sup> And of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, son of Azrikam, son of Hashabiah, son of Bunni; <sup>16</sup> and Shabbethai and Jozabad, of the chiefs of the Levites, who were over the outside work of the house of God; <sup>17</sup> and Mattaniah the son of Mica, son of Zabdi, son of Asaph, **who was the leader of the praise, who gave thanks**, and Bakbukiah, the second among his brothers; and Abda the son of Shammua, son of Galal, son of Jeduthun. <sup>18</sup> All the Levites **in the holy city** were 284.

<sup>19</sup> The gatekeepers, Akkub, Talmon and their brothers, who kept watch at the gates, were 172. <sup>20</sup> And the rest of Israel, and of the priests and the Levites, were in all the towns of Judah, every one in his inheritance. <sup>21</sup> But the temple servants lived on Ophel; and Ziha and Gishpa were over the temple servants.

# Nehemiah 11:22-30

<sup>22</sup> The overseer of the **Levites in Jerusalem** was Uzzi the son of Bani, son of Hashabiah, son of Mattaniah, son of Mica, **of the sons of Asaph, the singers, over the work of the house of God.** <sup>23</sup> For there was a command from the king concerning them, and a fixed provision for the singers, as every day required. <sup>24</sup> And Pethahiah the son of Meshezabel, of the sons of Zerah the son of Judah, was at the king's side in all matters concerning the people.

<sup>25</sup> And as for the villages, with their fields, some of the people of Judah lived in Kiriath-arba and its villages, and in Dibon and its villages, and in Jekabzeel and its villages,<sup>26</sup> and in Jeshua and in Moladah and Beth-pelet, <sup>27</sup> in Hazar-shual, in Beersheba and its villages, <sup>28</sup> in Ziklag, in Meconah and its villages, <sup>29</sup> in En-rimmon, in Zorah, in Jarmuth,<sup>30</sup> Zanoah, Adullam, and their villages, Lachish and its fields, and Azekah and its villages. **So they encamped from Beersheba to the Valley of Hinnom.**

# Nehemiah 11:31-12:7

<sup>31</sup> The people of Benjamin also lived from Geba onward, at Michmash, Aiija, Bethel and its villages,<sup>32</sup> Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah, <sup>33</sup> Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim, <sup>34</sup> Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat,<sup>35</sup> Lod, and Ono, the valley of craftsmen. <sup>36</sup> And certain divisions of the Levites in Judah were assigned to Benjamin.

<sup>19</sup> The gatekeepers, Akkub, Talmon and their brothers, who kept watch at the gates, were 172. <sup>20</sup> And the rest of Israel, and of the priests and the Levites, were in all the towns of Judah, every one in his inheritance. <sup>21</sup> But the temple servants lived on Ophel; and Ziha and Gishpa were over the temple servants.

**12 These are the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel** the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, <sup>2</sup> Amariah, Malluch, Hattush,<sup>3</sup> Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth, <sup>4</sup> Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah, <sup>5</sup> Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah,<sup>6</sup> Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah, <sup>7</sup> Sallu, Amok, Hilkiah, Jedaiah. These were the chiefs of the priests and of their brothers in the days of Jeshua.

# Nehemiah 12:8-21

<sup>8</sup> And the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, who with his brothers was in charge of the songs of thanksgiving. <sup>9</sup> And Bakbukiah and Unni and their brothers stood opposite them in the service. <sup>10</sup> And Jeshua was the father of Joiakim, Joiakim the father of Eliashib, Eliashib the father of Joiada, <sup>11</sup> Joiada the father of Jonathan, and Jonathan the father of Jaddua. <sup>12</sup> And in the days of Joiakim were priests, heads of fathers' houses: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah; <sup>13</sup> of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan; <sup>14</sup> of Malluchi, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph; <sup>15</sup> of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai; <sup>16</sup> of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam; <sup>17</sup> of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai; <sup>18</sup> of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan; <sup>19</sup> of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi; <sup>20</sup> of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber; <sup>21</sup> of Hilkiah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethanel.

# Nehemiah 12:22-26

<sup>22</sup> In the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan, and Jaddua, the Levites were recorded as heads of fathers' houses; so too were the priests in the reign of Darius the Persian. <sup>23</sup> As for the sons of Levi, **their heads of fathers' houses were written in the Book of the Chronicles until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib.** <sup>24</sup> And the chiefs of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brothers who stood opposite them, to praise and to give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, watch by watch. <sup>25</sup> Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were gatekeepers standing guard at the storehouses of the gates. <sup>26</sup> These were in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua son of Jozadak, and **in the days of Nehemiah the governor and of Ezra, the priest and scribe.**

# Nehemiah 12:27-31

<sup>27</sup> And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in all their places, **to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, harps, and lyres.** <sup>28</sup> And the sons of the singers gathered together from the district surrounding Jerusalem and from the villages of the Netophathites; <sup>29</sup> also from Beth-gilgal and from the region of Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built for themselves villages around Jerusalem. <sup>30</sup> **And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and they purified the people and the gates and the wall.**

<sup>31</sup> **Then I brought the leaders of Judah up onto the wall and appointed two great choirs that gave thanks.** One went to the south on the wall to the Dung Gate.



# Observations

Nehemiah reappears as main speaker

1. Only mentioned 3 times since Nehemiah 7:5
2. Appoints two choirs

What does this sound like?

1. Exodus 15:1, 20-21
2. Revelation 5:11-13

# Nehemiah 12:32-39

<sup>32</sup> And after them went Hoshaiah and half of the leaders of Judah, <sup>33</sup> and Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam, <sup>34</sup> Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, and Jeremiah, <sup>35</sup> and certain of the priests' sons with trumpets: Zechariah the son of Jonathan, son of Shemaiah, son of Mattaniah, son of Micaiah, son of Zaccur, son of Asaph; <sup>36</sup> and his relatives, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God. And Ezra the scribe went before them. <sup>37</sup> At the Fountain Gate they went up straight before them by the stairs of the city of David, at the ascent of the wall, above the house of David, to the Water Gate on the east.

<sup>38</sup> **The other choir of those who gave thanks** went to the north, and I followed them with half of the people, on the wall, above the Tower of the Ovens, to the Broad Wall, <sup>39</sup> and above the Gate of Ephraim, and by the Gate of Yeshanah, and by the Fish Gate and the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred, to the Sheep Gate; and they came to a halt at the Gate of the Guard.

# Nehemiah 12:40-44

**<sup>40</sup> So both choirs of those who gave thanks stood in the house of God, and I and half of the officials with me; <sup>41</sup> and the priests Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets; <sup>42</sup> and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang with Jezrahiah as their leader. <sup>43</sup> And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and children also rejoiced. And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.**

**<sup>44</sup> On that day men were appointed over the storerooms, the contributions, the firstfruits, and the tithes, to gather into them the portions required by the Law for the priests and for the Levites according to the fields of the towns, for Judah rejoiced over the priests and the Levites who ministered.**

# Observations

## The place of purification before celebration

1. Psalm 24:3-4

2. 1 John 1:9

## What does this lead to?

1. Joy!

2. Micah 6:8

# Nehemiah 12:45-47

**<sup>45</sup> And they performed the service of their God and the service of purification, as did the singers and the gatekeepers, according to the command of David and his son Solomon. <sup>46</sup> For long ago in the days of David and Asaph there were directors of the singers, and there were songs<sup>[b]</sup> of praise and thanksgiving to God. <sup>47</sup> And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah gave the daily portions for the singers and the gatekeepers; and they set apart that which was for the Levites; and the Levites set apart that which was for the sons of Aaron.**

# Reflections for the week

1. How does this section of Nehemiah challenge you to greater Spirit led living?
2. In what ways is this section of Nehemiah calling you to repentance?
3. In what ways is this section of Nehemiah inviting you to joyful delight in being a child of the king?

Meditate on Micah 6:8 and Psalm 126. What does it look like for you to live out your faith in light of these two passages?