

# NEHEMIAH - CHAPTER 11

## NOTES FROM LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION

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### V1-6 FILLING UP THE EMPTY DESOLATE CITY WITH ORDINARY PEOPLE

- THIS CHAPTER IS THE RECORD OF THOSE WHO WOULD REPOPULATE JERUSALEM
- IF THE CITY WAS TO BE USED AS IT WAS PURPOSED, PEOPLE HAD TO LIVE THERE
- SACRIFICES WERE MADE TO REPOPULATE-GOD'S PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS CALLED TO SACRIFICE
- WESTERN CULTURE DOESN'T RECORD HISTORY AS BUILDINGS OF 100 YEARS OR OLDER DO, WE DON'T SEE THERE IS VALUE IN IT
- SOME WERE COMMENDED FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS
- NEHEMIAH GAVE CREDIT AND RECOGNITION WHERE IT WAS DUE, AND BORE TESTIMONY FOR THOSE WHO WERE AROUND HIM OF SIGNIFICANCE AND THOSE WITH ORDINARY REGULAR FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE. HE KNEW NO MAN WAS BETTER THAN ANOTHER
  - EVERY NAME MATTERED TO GOD.
  - EVERY NAME HELPED NEHEMIAH TO REMIND HIM HE WASN'T DOING IT ALONE
  - WE WILL ALL BATTLE A BATTLE OF SIGNIFICANCE HERE, LOOK AROUND WHEN YOU DO
  - WE ARE ALL PRONE TO DISCOURAGEMENT ABOUT OUR WORTH
  - IDENTITY IS A PENDULUM THAT SWINGS BOTH WAYS
  - THE CHALLENGE IS TO LOOK OUTSIDE OURSELVES ON EITHER SPECTRUM
  - WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE BOTH A MOUTHPIECE AND AN UNSEEN SERVANT

*Are you prepared to find your identity as a servant of Christ when you are both totally obscure and publically present?*

*What lists are you on that don't bear eternal significance at all?*

- ONE TENTH OF THOSE RECORDED WERE CHOSEN OR VOLUNTEERED TO LIVE IN JERUSALEM
- THEY PEOPLE HAD RETURNED, THE TEMPLE CONSTRUCTED, WALLS BUILT, TASKS GIVEN, TEACHING & RECOMMITMENT WAS HAPPENING-NOW HOMES AND BUSINESSES NOW WOULD NEED TO BE REBUILT TO REPOPULATE JERUSALEM & SURROUNDING AREAS
  - LIST WHO REPAIRED-
  - LIST OF WHO RETURNED FROM EXILE
  - LIST OF LEADERS WHO SEALED THE BINDING AGREEMENT

### V7-9 THE DESCENDANTS - 468 (JUDAH)+928 (BENJAMIN)=1,396 TOTAL

- MORE THAN HISTORICAL-THEY ARE TESTIMONY OF A COVENANT PROMISE OF GOD
- JUDAH AND BENJAMIN WERE THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM FROM THE TIME OF KINGS
  - PROMISE TO BRING A SAVIOR THROUGH THE LINE OF DAVID WOULD STAND, AS ALL THE KINGS IN THE PAST HAD BEEN, AND THE KING THAT ONE DAY WOULD COME TO DEFEAT EVIL ONCE, FOR ALL, STILL WOULD
  - ABRAHAM-ALSO PROMISED MANY DESCENDANTS, LIVING IN THEIR OWN LAND
  - EZE 36-THE EXILE WOULD END (BABYLON) THEY WOULD RETURN
    - GIVEN NEW HEARTS & NEW SPIRIT WOULD BE PLACED IN THEM SO THEY COULD FOLLOW GOD AND HIS WAYS

*God uses ORDINARY people committed to Him, to do His EXTRAORDINARY work!*

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## V10-14 THE PRIESTS - 822+242+128=692 TOTAL

- RESPONSIBLE FOR TEMPLE WORK
  - OFFERINGS, SABBATH REGULATIONS
  - SACRIFICES & PURIFICATION RITUALS
  - FEASTS, FESTIVALS, & SACRED ASSEMBLIES

## V15-18 THE LEVITES - 284 TOTAL

- RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WORK OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE
  - SCRIBES & TEACHERS OF THE LAW
  - INSTRUCTION, CLARITY OF THE WORD, PRAYER

## V19- THE GATEKEEPERS - 172 TOTAL

- RESPONSIBLE FOR TEMPLE SECURITY & GATE UPKEEP
  - KEEPING ORDER TO THE DESIGNATED AREAS
  - GENTILES, ISREALITE WOMEN & CHILDREN, ISREALITE MEN, LEVITES, HIGH PRIEST

## V20-24 THE RESIDENTS OF THE SURROUNDING TOWNS - NO TOTALS AFTER HERE

- THE REST OF THE ISRAELITES ON THEIR ANCESTRAL PROPERTY
  - NOTICE THE FUNCTION
  - ALL THE WORK HAS TO DO WITH TEMPLE WORK
  - THE SINGERS WERE GREAT GRANDCHILDREN OF DAVID-LINEAGE THAT MATTERS

## V25-35 THE VILLAGES TO THE SOUTH (JUDAH) AND NORTH (BENJAMIN)

- A RECORD OF WHERE THESE TWO TRIBES RESIDED IS RECORDED
  - THEIR NAMES AND PLACES TO LIVE WERE RECORDED FOR POSTERITY
  - GOD HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO LIVE IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE-TO BE THE CENTER

# NEHEMIAH - CHAPTER 12

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## CHAPTER 12:1-11 THE PRIESTS AND LEVITES DURING JOSHUA (SON OF JOZADAK)

- A RECORD OF THE PRIESTS AND LEVITES WHO CAME WITH ZERUBBABEL

## CHAPTER 12:12-26 THE PRIESTS AND LEVITES DURING JOIAKIM (SON OF JOSHUA)

- A RECORD OF THE HEADS OF THE PRIESTLY FAMILIES
  - NEBUCHADNEZZAR COULD DESTROY THEIR PLACE OF WORSHIP- BUT HE COULD NOT DESTROY WHAT WAS NOT SEEN-WORSHIP PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION
  - THEIR WORSHIP WAS A RESPONSE-IT WAS AN ECHO

*We are not a people of faces, or fame, we are a people of function. God wants us to operate in more than just His grace—he wants faithful people to engage in His work and His heart.*

*Do you joyfully anticipate the work of the Lord in the season you are in and the season to come?*

*God uses ORDINARY people committed to Him, to do His EXTRAORDINARY work!*