

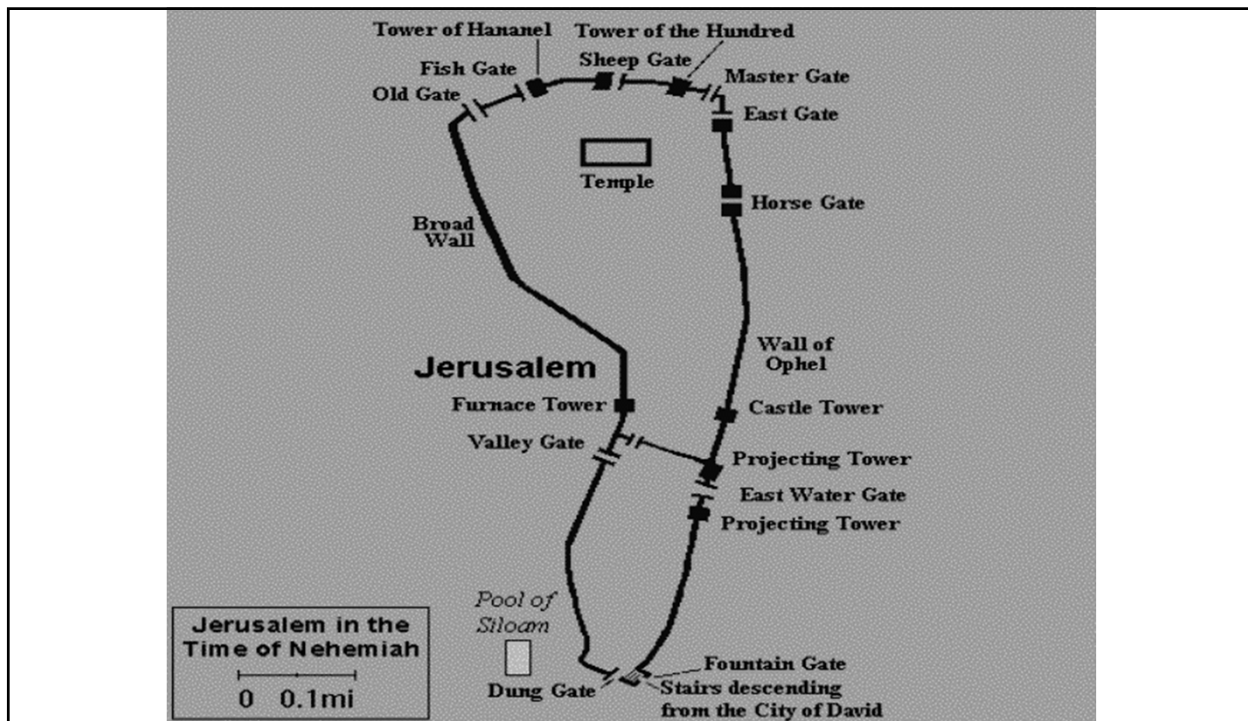
# Nehemiah

People chosen to populate the city of Jerusalem. 11:1-2

- Note only the tribes of Judah, Levi and Benjamin are mentioned. These are the only tribes that maintained the integrity of their lineage as indicated by the many lists of names in the book of Nehemiah. The other tribes which composed the northern kingdom were assimilated into the general population and never again appear in any cohesive manner.

## A dedication service was held to celebrate the work of finishing the wall. 12:27-43

- David had given the Levites the work of leading in worship through praise and thanksgiving. 12:22-26 (See 1 Chronicles 15:16-24)
- The Levites were called together to lead the worship celebration for the finished wall.
- They purified themselves, the people, the gates and the wall. See Numbers 8:21. This usually involved a ceremonial washing and sacrifices.
- The Levites were divided into two great choirs, one accompanied by Ezra and the other by Nehemiah.



A dedication service was held to celebrate the work of finishing the wall. 12:27-43

- It seems that they moved along the walls and converged at the Temple. This would have been a great demonstration of the strength of the walls in light of the earlier assertion that if a fox ran across it, that it would crumble.
- A wonderful time of worship and celebration loud enough to be heard in the surrounding areas.

The Levites are organized to fulfill their responsibilities.

- Receive and secure the various offerings.
- Perform the service of the Temple.
- Notation of the faithfulness of the people to support the Priests and the Levites.

## Unfaithfulness during Nehemiah's absence.

- Eliashib, the priest who has responsibility over the storage areas of the Temple, provided his relative, Tobiah, living quarters in one of these large rooms. This Tobiah had led much of the opposition to Nehemiah during the building of the wall.
  - Upon his return Nehemiah had Tobiah's belongings removed and restored the room to its proper use.

## Unfaithfulness during Nehemiah's absence.

- The people had stopped bringing the contributions to the Temple. This forced the Levites to produce their own food.
  - Nehemiah confronted the officials with this neglect
  - He appointed reliable people to receive and distribute the offerings.

## Unfaithfulness during Nehemiah's absence.

- The people were not keeping the Sabbath.
  - Nehemiah again ordered the gates of the city shut just before the start of the Sabbath and not to be opened until the Sabbath had passed.
  - Nehemiah stationed his loyal servants to guard the gates.
  - The people who came to do business on the Sabbath were refused entrance and warned not to return.
  - The Levites were commissioned to guard the gates.

## Unfaithfulness during Nehemiah's absence.

- The issue of intermarriage with those of the surrounding countries resurfaced.
  - A special note is made about those from Ammon and Moab referencing Deuteronomy 23:3-6
  - Further rationale is given from the example of Solomon being led away from God by his foreign wives referenced in 1 Kings 11:1-8

## Unfaithfulness during Nehemiah's absence.

- The unfaithfulness that arose during Nehemiah's absence reminds God's people of all ages of the importance of:
  - Integrity in leadership. Eliashib the priest was not faithful with his oversight of the chambers of the house of God.
  - Faithfulness in leadership. Note that Nehemiah confronted the officials to address the situation. 13:11
  - Diligence in keeping God's commandments.