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Nehemiah handed the oversight of Jerusalem to men of proven integrity when the wall was finished. 7:1-4

- Hanani was Nehemiah's brother who had originally reported the condition of Jerusalem to Nehemiah. 1:1-3
- Nehemiah set some security guidelines for them to follow.

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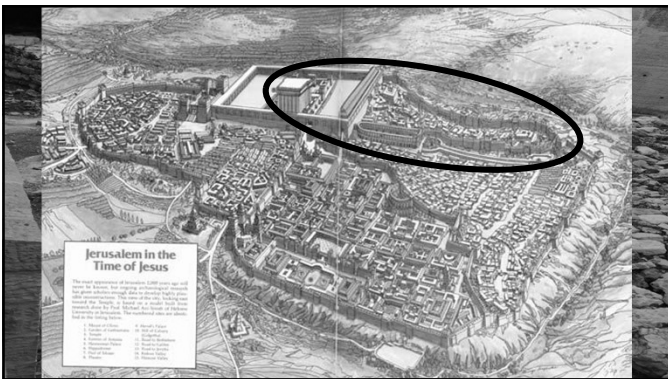
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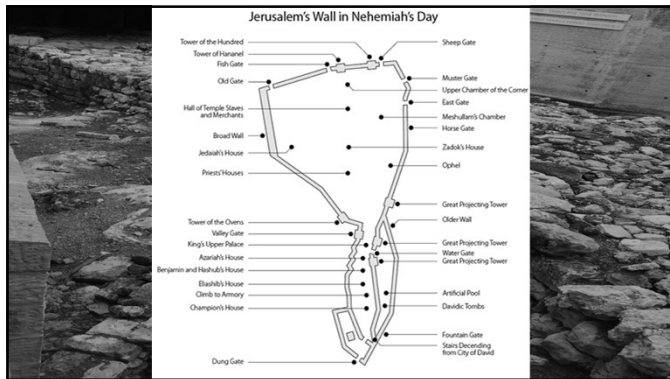
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Nehemiah confirms the enrollment of the people who returned to Jerusalem and Judea. Nehemiah 7:5-73

- Same list found in Ezra 2:1-70
- This was especially important for those serving as the priests and Levites.

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The people had been obedient in the immediate task to which God called them, now they are eager to hear the Word of God to walk in continued obedience. 8:1-8

- Now they have a secure venue to focus on the Law of God.
- The request came from the people for Ezra to read the Law. This is the first five books of our Old Testament. The response of the people and the prayer recorded in Chapter 9 indicates that all five books were read.

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The people had been obedient in the immediate task to which God called them, now they are eager to hear the Word of God to walk in continued obedience. 8:1-8

- Their reverence for God, as indicated by reverence for His Word, is seen in:
  - Requesting and gathering for the reading
  - Their attention to the reading
  - They stood when the book was opened
  - Worship
- The Levites helped the people understand the reading.

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The response to the reading of the Word of God. 8:13-10:39

- The immediate response of the people was to mourn and weep over the realization of how the nation has broken God's laws.
- Nehemiah, Ezra and the Levites helped the people understand that this was not where God intended to leave them. He corrects us so that we may serve Him with joy.

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The response to the reading of the Word of God. 8:13-10:39

- Heads of households, priests and Levites came together on a second day to further study the Law. 8:13
- They responded with immediate obedience by doing the first thing they could which was to begin again to celebrate the feast of Booths. (See Leviticus 23:33-43) Genesis 33:17

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The response to the reading of the Word of God. 8:13-10:39

- The wall was finished in the month Elul, the sixth month and the Feast of Booths begins on fifteenth day of the seventh month.
- This had not been done since the altar was rebuilt around 549 B.C. Nehemiah finished the wall around 444 B.C. 8:17
- It was fitting that they begin with this feast since it commemorated the wandering of the Israelites in the wilderness.

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The response to the reading of the Word of God. 8:13-10:39

- They used the seven days of the Feast of Booths to study the Law of God. 8:18
- The day after the feast of booths they continued the study of the Law which resulted in further repentance and obedience. 9:1-3

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Lessons

- Much more is accomplished when you appropriately entrust others with responsibilities.
- Never lose sight of the central place of God's word.
- God provides people to present and teach His Word.
- The Word of God powerfully convicts and powerfully restores.
- God expects and honors immediate obedience to His Word.

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