

Nehemiah 12

Worship and Dedication

Zerubbabel's Return & The Temple Cyrus (538–515 BC) Ezra's Return Art & Religious Reforms (458 BC) Nehemiah Art Return & Rebuilding The Walls (445–432 BC) 90 yrs

1-9 Names of leading priest & Levites who came up w/ Zerubbabel

10-11 Succession of HP

12-21 Names of 2nd generation of Chief priests

22-26 Renowned Levites during Nehemiah's time

27-43 Joyful dedication of Jerusalem's wall

44-47 Priests & Levites positions of service in Temple

Great servants of God are to be recognized...We have them here & thruout all time & eternity. Those who left a mark on history for God...although not seeking it but God puts them forward. Memory is blessed...**Chuck Ps. 112:6**
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

1Now these are the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, **2**Amariah, Malluch, Hattush, **3**Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth, **4**Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah, **5**Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah, **6**Shemaiah and Joiarib, Jedaiah, **7**Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, and Jedaiah. **These were the heads of the priests and their kinsmen in the days of Jeshua.**

These were the first fruits, Priests, of those who came up from Babylon....**Church plant**....struggles & difficulties they endured but now ended & celebration begins.

8And the Levites were Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah who was **in charge of the songs of thanksgiving, he and his brothers.** **9**Also Bakbukiah and Unni, **their brothers, stood opposite them in their service divisions.** **10**And Jeshua became the father of Joiakim, and Joiakim became the father of Eliashib, and Eliashib became the father of Joiada, **11**and Joiada became the father of Jonathan, and Jonathan became the father of Jaddua.

Joyful time w/ songs & instruments of praise...celebrating new beginning fresh revival--leaders used as instruments of God to bring about Gods will.

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Levites important role of leading songs & worship...alternating groups w/ musical instruments 15-20 depends of Hebrew translation. **3 categories** 1-stringed, 2-wind and 3-percussion. **Lyre-guitar**

Worship leader w/ voice & spirit and truth...some focus on instrumentation. But God inhabits the praises of His people....**India jimbay-skin covered drum**

12 Now in the days of Joiakim the priests, the heads of fathers' households were: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah; 13of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan; 14of Malluchi, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph; 15of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai; 16of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam; 17of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai; 18of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan; 19of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi; 20of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber; 21of Hilkiah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethanel.

Chiefs, heads of household of worshipers listed....**calling, recruiting, drafted**

22As for the Levites, the heads of fathers' households were registered in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, and Johanan, and Jaddua; so were the priests in the reign of Darius the Persian 522 to 486 BC 23The sons of Levi, the heads of fathers' households, were registered in the Book of the Chronicles up to the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib. 24And the heads of the Levites were Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brothers opposite them, to praise and give thanks, as prescribed by David the man of God, division corresponding to division. 25Mattaniah, and Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were gatekeepers keeping watch at the storehouses of the gates. 26These served in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor and of Ezra the priest and scribe.

27Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites from all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem so that they might celebrate the dedication with gladness, with hymns of thanksgiving and with songs to the accompaniment of cymbals, harps, and lyres. 28So the sons of the singers were assembled from the district around Jerusalem, and from the villages of the Netophathites(village south of Bethlehem), 29from Beth-gilgal, and from their fields in Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built themselves villages around Jerusalem. 30And the priests and the Levites purified themselves; they also purified the people, the gates, and the wall.

Building complete under stressful conditions **trowel/sword-slander, threats, trials.** Now great rejoicing at dedication **‘those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.**
Ps 126:5

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Dedication of wall included city--wall encompassed all w/in it—difficulty and opposition made the event that much sweeter, more treasured

It was God's city & they were stewards & citizens to honor & glorify Him. Not owners but custodians, guardians of the things of God--*to Him be the glory great things He has done* for them & w/ them. *Ps 48:2 Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, Is Mount Zion in the far north, The city of the great King.* Always had been a great city now rebuilt, renewed, newly dedicated as people were....**and we are this evening.** *Be ye changed by the renewing of your mind*

Purified the people--Not a ritual but reality for true worship...many can sing but God wants pure vessels & only then can we worship in spirit and truth...**noise dulls purity** *Blessed are pure in heart they shall see God Matt 5:8*
Ps 24:3-5

Soulful experience in singing can move a person w/o touching God—**many pressed against Jesus only the woman w/ issue of blood touched Him...I perceive virtue has gone out of me.** *Lk 8:46*

Gates and walls purified—surroundings, homes, office, school, play....Where you walk and talk and fellowship

31Then I had the leaders of Judah come up on top of the wall, and I appointed two great *todah* thanksgiving choirs, the first proceeding to the right on top of the wall toward the Refuse Gate. 32Hoshaiah and half of the leaders of Judah followed them, 33with Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam, 34Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah, 35and some of the sons of the priests with trumpets; and Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph, 36and his kinsmen, 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. 37And at the Fountain Gate they went directly up the steps of the city of David by the stairway of the wall above the house of David to the Water Gate on the east.

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Todah choirs to give thanks....great, large choirs for purpose of great & large time of praise & worship giving thanks to God—thankful hearts are worshiping hearts. What ever you do in word or deed...do w/ all your might Loud singing to be heard by other group as circled wall. Make a joyful voice don't worry about others

They purified themselves and then the people. Those that would be instrumental to sanctify others must sanctify themselves, and set themselves apart for God, with purity of mind and sincerity of intention. **MH**

38*The second choir proceeded to the left, while I followed them with half of the people on the wall, above the Tower of Furnaces, to the Broad Wall, 39and above the Gate of Ephraim, by the Old Gate, by the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel, and the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate, and they stopped at the Gate of the Guard. 40Then the two choirs took their stand in the house of God. So did I and half of the officials with me; 41and the priests, Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with the trumpets; 42and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang, with Jezrahiah their leader, 43and on that day they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced because God had given them great joy, even the women and children rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard from afar.*

People heard the singing but also the joy

44*On that day men were also appointed over the chambers for the stores, the contributions, the first fruits, and the tithes, to gather into them from the fields of the cities the portions required by the law for the priests and Levites; for Judah rejoiced over the priests and Levites who served. 45For they performed the worship of their God and the service of purification, together with the singers and the gatekeepers in accordance with the command of David and of his son Solomon. 46For in the days of David and Asaph, in ancient times, there were leaders of the singers, songs of praise and hymns of thanksgiving to God. 47And so all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and Nehemiah gave the portions due the singers and the gatekeepers as each day required, and set apart the consecrated portion for the Levites, and the Levites set apart the consecrated portion for the sons of Aaron.*

Sacred office to oversee the giving & guarding of the peoples giving & distribution to priests, Levites who led the people in worship and dedication. Must be above reproach...unable to be laid hold of. Not a man w/ stick fingers....**Joshua 7**. He who is faithful in little is faithful in much & he who is dishonest in little is dishonest in much. Can't but a Judas who is in charge of church finances.