

ADMINISTERING JERUSALEM. NEH. 7:1-6. 01/05/25. #12.

7 Then it was, when the wall was built and I had hung the doors, when the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed, ²that I gave the charge of Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the leader of the citadel, for he *was* a faithful man and feared God more than many. ³And I said to them, "Do not let the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot; and while they stand *guard*, let them shut and bar the doors; and appoint guards from among the inhabitants of Jerusalem, one at his watch station and another in front of his own house." Now the city *was* large and spacious, but the people in it *were* few, and the houses *were* not rebuilt. ⁵Then my God put it into my heart to gather the nobles, the rulers, and the people, that they might be registered by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of those who had come up in the first *return*, and found written in it: ⁶These *are* the people of the province who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his city.

1. Setting Jerusalem in order

- a. Once the wall was finished & its gates set, Neh. had to organize the running of the city
- b. Neh. faced several problems:
 - a1. The nobles & leaders had conspired against him while in league with enemies
 - a2. Neh. had to report back to the king
 - a3. The city was spacious, but the inhabitants were few, so defense became difficult
 - a4. The managing of the flow of traffic to & from Jerusalem each day was an issue
- c. Neh. set up details at the gates
 - a1. Unlike the typical dawn to dusk schedule of most cities, Neh. ordered the gates to be kept closed until the heat of the day
 - a2. With few people in the city, Neh. may have wanted full light for the guards
- d. The phrase about barring the door is confusing
 - a1. It could be a simple matter of barring the gates when no guards were present
 - a2. It would make no sense to bar the gates while the guards were there in the day
- e. Setting Levite singers at the gate was unusual

- a1. The singers set up by David were in the temple, leading worship
- a2. Neh. wanted singers at the gates to welcome visitors with praise to God (*you are now entering the city of God*)

2. Leadership for Jerusalem

- a. As Neh. planned to return to report to the king, he appointed his brother, Hanani (or Hananiah), as mayor over the city
 - a1. Hanani was the man who reported the condition of Jerusalem to Neh. in Susa, which led to the building of the wall (1:2)
 - a2. Han. was a man of integrity & holiness
- b. Neh. was concerned about leaving competent honest leadership in place
 - a1. With enemies within & without & a small population, vigilance was necessary
 - a2. The job of rebuilding ruined homes & reorganizing the city had just begun

3. Taking stock

- a. The rest of the chapter lists the leading families that had returned from the exile
 - a1. It is the same list as in Ezra 2
 - a2. The few numbers in the list was a concern of Daniel's (Dan. 10)
- b. Genealogies & the purity of lineages was a major concern for the Jews
 - a1. 1 Chron. 1-9, Num. 1 precise lists given
 - a2. Purity of covenant maintained
- c. The Lord always saves a remnant for himself
 - a1.1 Kn. 19 during Elijah's time the number had dropped to 7,000 in Israel
 - a2. During the Tribulation the covenant Jews will turn to Christ in large numbers (Zech. 12-13)
- d. Each generation is a link to the next
 - a1. Even though the church does not keep track of genealogies, spiritual heritage is important to maintain (Gal. 3, Rom. 10)
 - a2. Neh. set the stage for growth