

REPOPULATING THE CAPITAL CITY OF JERUSALEM AND A DEDICATION OF THE WALLS

(Nehemiah 11:1-12:47)

I. TAKING VOLUNTEERS AND CASTING LOTS TO POPULATE JERUSALEM

A. The Tribes of Judah and Benjamin Who Settled in JERUSALEM (11:1-36)

1. Now that the walls were rebuilt and Jerusalem had been restored once again, it was _____ that the Jewish people not only inhabit the city, and take care of it, but also _____ it.
2. Because it may have been safer to live in a small village that did not present a threat to anyone, Nehemiah took _____ and had to _____ to fill the rest of the vacancies. (vv. 1-2)
3. Technically _____ tribes of Israel returned in the exile, Judah (vv. 4-6) and Benjamin (vv. 7-9) along with the _____ (vv. 10-18); it was these three that now inhabited the city of Jerusalem.

B. The Priests and Levites Who Lived AMONG the People (12:1-26)

1. As unexciting as the first half of the chapter is, Nehemiah had a point to make by his _____ to _____ bygone generations as if they were of no further interest.
2. The Levites and priests lived among the general population (even when the Israelites first entered the Promised Land under Joshua) in order to be a _____ and to act as a _____ for the people. (Josh. 21)

C. The Dedication of the City Walls (12:27-47)

1. Nehemiah had been diligently working behind the scenes in making preparations; he enlisted _____ and _____ from all over Judah to guarantee that the dedication service would be nothing less than spectacular. (vv. 27-29)

2. Everyone took this dedication of the walls very _____, there was a ceremonial _____ of the people before it began. (v. 30)

3. Nehemiah assembled two great choirs to sing, play instruments and give thanks to the Lord...
 - a. _____ led one group on the southern and eastern wall counter clockwise. (vv. 31-37)

 - b. _____ led a second group clockwise on the northern wall. (vv. 38-39)

 - c. Both choirs of thanksgiving met at the _____, and they sang together so _____ *“that the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off.”* (vv. 40-43)

4. The emphasis: It was on *joyful praise* on the part of all the people; _____ is mentioned 8x in this chapter, _____ 6x, _____ 7x, and musical instruments 3x.

5. The people brought their _____ and _____, not only because it was the commandment of God, but also because they *“rejoiced over the priest and Levites who ministered.”* (vv. 44-47)

* How can you personally apply this truth this morning?