Nehemiah

1 The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah. In
the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year, I was
in the citadel of Susa.
2 Hanani, one of my brothers, came with some
men from Judah. I asked them about the
surviving Jews who had remained from the
captivity, and about Jerusalem.
3 They said to me, “The survivors of the
captivity who remain there in the province are
in great distress and disgrace. Jerusalem's wall is
broken down, and its gates have been burned.”
4 When I heard these words, I sat down and
wept. I mourned for days, fasting and praying
before the God of heaven.
5 I said, “Please, LORD, God of heaven, the
great and awesome God who keeps covenant
and faithful love with those who love him and
keep his commandments,
6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open
to hear the prayer of your servant, which I am
praying before you now, day and night, for your
servants the Israelites. I confess the sins of the
Israelites that we have committed against you.
Both I and my father's house have sinned.
7 We have acted very corruptly against you
and have not kept the commandments, statutes,
and ordinances you commanded your servant
Moses.

8 Please remember the word you commanded
your servant Moses: ‘If you are unfaithful, I will
scatter you among the peoples.
9 But if you return to me, keep my
commandments, and do them, even if your
outcasts are at the farthest reaches of heaven, I
will gather them from there and bring them to
the place I have chosen to make my name dwell.’
10 They are your servants and your people,
whom you redeemed by your great power and
your strong hand.
11 Please, Lord, let your ear be attentive to the
prayer of your servant and to the prayer of your
servants who delight in fearing your name.
Grant your servant success today, and let him
find compassion before this man.” I was
cupbearer to the king.

2

1 In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year
of King Artaxerxes, wine was before him. I took
the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been
sad in his presence before.
2 The king said to me, “Why is your face sad
when you are not sick? This can only be sadness
of heart.” Then I was very afraid.
3 I said to the king, “May the king live forever!
Why should my face not be sad when the city
where my fathers' tombs are lies in ruins and its
gates have been consumed by fire?”
4 The king asked me, “What are you
requesting?” So I prayed to the God of heaven

5 and said to the king, “If it seems good to the
king and if your servant is pleasing in your
sight, send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers'
tombs, so that I may rebuild it.”
6 The king, with the queen sitting beside him,
asked me, “How long will your journey take, and
when will you return?” It pleased the king to
send me, and I set a time.
7 I also said to the king, “If it seems good to the
king, let letters be given to me for the governors
of Beyond the River, so that they will let me pass
through until I reach Judah,
8 and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's
forest, so that he will give me timber for beams
for the gates of the citadel attached to the
temple, for the city wall, and for the house I will
enter.” The king granted me this, for the good
hand of my God was on me.
9 I came to the governors of Beyond the River
and gave them the king's letters. The king had
sent army commanders and horsemen with me.
10 When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah
the Ammonite servant heard about this, they
were greatly displeased that someone had come
to seek the welfare of the Israelites.
11 I arrived in Jerusalem and stayed there
three days.
12 I arose at night with a few men. I had told
no one what my God was putting in my heart to
do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me
except the one I was riding.
13 I went out at night through the Valley Gate,
past the Dragon Spring and on to the Dung Gate,

inspecting Jerusalem's walls, which were broken down, and its gates, which had been consumed by fire.

14 I went on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal under me to pass.

15 So I went up along the brook at night, inspecting the wall. Then I turned back, entered through the Valley Gate, and returned.

16 The deputies did not know where I had gone or what I was doing. I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the deputies, or the rest of the workers.

17 Then I said to them, “You see the distress we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned. Come, let us rebuild Jerusalem's wall, so that we will no longer be a disgrace.”

18 I told them about the hand of my God, which had been good to me, and also what the king had said to me. They said, “Let us rise and build!” So they strengthened their hands for this good work.

19 When Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite servant, and Geshem the Arab heard, they mocked us and despised us, saying, “What is this you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?”

20 I answered them, “The God of heaven will grant us success. We his servants will rise and build, but you have no share, right, or memorial in Jerusalem.”

3

1 Eliashib the high priest arose with his fellow
priests, and they built the Sheep Gate. They
consecrated it and set up its doors. They
consecrated it as far as the Tower of the
Hundred, as far as the Tower of Hananel.
2 Next to him the men of Jericho built, and
next to him Zaccur son of Imri built.
3 The sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate.
They laid its beams and set up its doors, bolts,
and bars.
4 Next to them Meremoth son of Uriah, son of
Hakkoz, made repairs. Next to them Meshullam
son of Berechiah, son of Meshezabel, made
repairs. Next to them Zadok son of Baana made
repairs.
5 Next to them the Tekoites made repairs, but
their nobles would not bend their necks to the
service of their masters.
6 Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of
Besodeiah repaired the Old Gate. They laid its
beams and set up its doors, bolts, and bars.
7 Next to them Melatiah the Gibeonite and
Jadon the Meronothite made repairs, men of
Gibeon and Mizpah under the authority of the
governor of Beyond the River.
8 Next to him Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of
the goldsmiths, made repairs. Next to him
Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs.
They left Jerusalem intact as far as the Broad
Wall.
9 Next to them Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of
half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs.

10 Next to them Jedaiah son of Harumaph
made repairs opposite his house. Next to him
Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs.

11 Malchijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of
Pahath-moab repaired another section and the
Tower of the Ovens.

12 Next to him Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler
of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs,
he and his daughters.

13 Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah
repaired the Valley Gate. They rebuilt it and set
up its doors, bolts, and bars. They also repaired
about 1,500 feet of the wall as far as the Dung
Gate.

14 Malchijah son of Rechab, ruler of the district
of Beth-haccherem, repaired the Dung Gate. He
rebuilt it and set up its doors, bolts, and bars.

15 Shallun son of Col-hozeh, ruler of the
district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate.
He rebuilt it and roofed it, and they set up its
doors, bolts, and bars. He also repaired the wall
of the Pool of Shelah by the king's garden, as far
as the stairs going down from the City of David.

16 After him Nehemiah son of Azbuk, ruler of
half the district of Beth-zur, made repairs as far
as the point opposite David's tombs, as far as the
constructed pool, and as far as the house of the
warriors.

17 After him the Levites made repairs: Rehum
son of Bani. Next to him Hashabiah, ruler of half
the district of Keilah, made repairs on behalf of
his district.

18 After him their brothers made repairs:
Bavvai son of Henadad, ruler of half the district
of Keilah.
19 Next to him Ezer son of Jeshua, ruler of
Mizpah, repaired another section opposite the
ascent to the armory at the bend.
20 After him Baruch son of Zabbai zealously
repaired another section, from the bend to the
entrance of the house of Eliashib the high priest.
21 After him Meremoth son of Uriah, son of
Hakkoz, repaired another section, from the
entrance of Eliashib's house to the end of
Eliashib's house.
22 After him the priests, the men of the plain,
made repairs.
23 After him Benjamin and Hasshub made
repairs opposite their house. After him Azariah
son of Maaseiah, son of Ananiah, made repairs
beside his house.
24 After him Binnui son of Henadad repaired
another section, from Azariah's house to the
bend and as far as the corner.
25 Palal son of Uzai made repairs opposite the
bend and the tower projecting from the king's
upper house by the courtyard of the guard.
After him Pedaiah son of Parosh made repairs.
26 The temple servants were living in Ophel, as
far as the point opposite the Water Gate on the
east and the projecting tower.
27 After him the Tekoites repaired another
section, from the point opposite the great
projecting tower to the wall of Ophel.

28 Above the Horse Gate the priests made
repairs, each opposite his own house.
29 After him Zadok son of Immer made repairs
opposite his house. After him Shemaiah son of
Shecaniah, keeper of the East Gate, made
repairs.
30 After him Hananiah son of Shelemiah and
Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired
another section. After him Meshullam son of
Berechiah made repairs opposite his chamber.
31 After him Malchijah, the goldsmith's son,
made repairs as far as the house of the temple
servants and the merchants, opposite the
Inspection Gate, and as far as the upper room at
the corner.
32 Between the upper room at the corner and
the Sheep Gate, the goldsmiths and the
merchants made repairs.

4

1 When Sanballat heard that we were building
the wall, he grew angry and was greatly
enraged, and he mocked the Jews.
2 Before his brothers and the army of Samaria,
he said, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will
they be left alone? Will they offer sacrifices?
Will they finish in a day? Will they bring the
stones back to life from the heaps of rubble,
burned as they are?”
3 Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him and
said, “Even if a fox climbs onto what they are
building, it will break down their stone wall!”

4 “Hear, our God, for we are despised. Turn
their reproach back on their own heads, and
give them up as plunder in a land of captivity.
5 Do not cover their iniquity or let their sin be
blotted out from before you, for they have
provoked anger before the builders.”
6 So we built the wall, and the whole wall was
joined together to half its height, for the people
had a heart to work.
7 When Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the
Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the
repair of Jerusalem's walls was advancing and
that the gaps were beginning to close, they grew
very angry.
8 They all conspired together to come and fight
against Jerusalem and cause confusion in it.
9 But we prayed to our God and posted a guard
against them day and night because of them.
10 Judah said, “The strength of the burden
bearers is failing, and there is so much rubble.
We cannot build the wall.”
11 Our adversaries said, “They will not know
or see until we come among them, kill them, and
put a stop to the work.”
12 When the Jews living near them came, they
said to us ten times, “Return to us from every
place!”
13 So I stationed people in the low places
behind the wall, at the exposed points. I
stationed the people by families with their
swords, spears, and bows.
14 I looked, arose, and said to the nobles, the
deputies, and the rest of the people, “Do not be

afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is
great and awesome, and fight for your brothers,
your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your
houses."
15 When our enemies heard that their plan
was known to us and that God had frustrated it,
we all returned to the wall, each to his work.
16 From that day on, half my servants worked
on the construction, and the other half were
equipped with spears, shields, bows, and body
armor. The leaders were behind the whole
house of Judah.
17 The builders of the wall and those carrying
the loads worked with one hand and held a
weapon with the other.
18 Each builder had his sword strapped to his
waist as he built. The one who sounded the horn
was beside me.
19 I said to the nobles, the deputies, and the
rest of the people, "The work is great and spread
out, and we are separated along the wall, far
from one another.
20 Wherever you hear the sound of the horn,
gather there to us. Our God will fight for us."
21 So we worked on the construction, and half
of them held spears from daybreak until the
stars came out.
22 At that time I also said to the people, "Let
every man and his servant spend the night
inside Jerusalem, so that they may serve us as a
guard by night and work by day."
23 Neither I nor my brothers nor my servants
nor the guards who followed me took off our
clothes; each had his weapon, even at the water.

5

1 There was a great outcry from the people
and their wives against their fellow Jews.
2 Some said, “We, our sons, and our daughters
are many. We need to get grain so that we may
eat and live.”
3 Others said, “We are pledging our fields,
vineyards, and houses to get grain because of
the famine.”
4 Still others said, “We have borrowed money
for the king's tax against our fields and
vineyards.
5 Our flesh is like the flesh of our brothers, and
our children are like their children. Yet we are
forcing our sons and daughters into slavery, and
some of our daughters have already been
enslaved. We have no power to help it, for our
fields and vineyards belong to others.”
6 I was very angry when I heard their outcry
and these words.
7 After considering it in my heart, I rebuked
the nobles and the deputies. I said to them,
“Each of you is charging his own brother
interest!” I called a great assembly against them
8 and said to them, “As far as we were able, we
have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold
to the nations. And now you are selling your
own brothers, so that they will be sold back to
us?” They were silent and found nothing to say.

9 Then I said, “What you are doing is not good.
Should you not walk in the fear of our God to
avoid the reproach of the nations, our enemies?

10 I, my brothers, and my servants are also
lending them money and grain. Let us stop this
charging of interest.
11 Restore to them this very day their fields,
vineyards, olive groves, and houses, and the one
percent of the money, grain, new wine, and oil
that you are charging them."
12 They said, "We will restore it and demand
nothing from them. We will do as you say." Then
I called the priests and made the nobles and
deputies swear to do according to this word.
13 I also shook out the folds of my garment and
said, "May God shake out every man who does
not keep this word from his house and from the
fruit of his labor. May he be shaken out and
emptied like this!" The whole assembly said,
"Amen," and praised the LORD. The people did
according to this word.
14 From the day I was appointed their
governor in the land of Judah, from the
twentieth to the thirty-second year of King
Artaxerxes—twelve years—neither I nor my
brothers ate from the governor's food allowance.
15 The former governors who preceded me
had burdened the people, taking bread and
wine from them besides about a pound of silver.
Even their servants lorded it over the people,
but I did not do so because of the fear of God.
16 I also devoted myself to the work on this
wall. We bought no fields, and all my servants
were gathered there for the work.
17 At my table were 150 Jews and deputies,
along with those who came to us from the

nations around us.
18 One ox and six choice sheep were prepared
each day, and birds were also prepared for me.
Every ten days there was an abundance of all
kinds of wine. Even with all this, I did not
demand the governor's food allowance, because
the burden of service was heavy on this people.
19 Remember me for good, my God, for all that
I have done for this people.

6

1 When Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab,
and the rest of our enemies heard that I had
rebuilt the wall and that no gap remained in
it—though at that time I had not yet set up the
doors in the gateways—
2 Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message:
“Come, let us meet together at Kephirim in the
plain of Ono.” But they were planning to harm
me.
3 So I sent messengers to them, saying, “I am
doing a great work and cannot come down. Why
should the work stop while I leave it and come
down to you?”
4 They sent me this same message four times,
and each time I gave them the same answer.
5 The fifth time, Sanballat sent his servant to
me with the same message and an open letter in
his hand.
6 It read: “It is reported among the
nations—and Gashmu says so—that you and the
Jews are planning to rebel. That is why you are
rebuilding the wall. According to these reports,
you are to become their king.

7 You have also appointed prophets to
proclaim about you in Jerusalem, 'There is a
king in Judah!' Now these reports will reach the
king. So come, let us consult together."

8 I sent him this reply: "Nothing you are saying
has happened. You are making it up in your
own heart."
9 For they were all trying to frighten us,
thinking, "Their hands will grow weak at the
work, and it will not be completed." Now
strengthen my hands!
10 I went to the house of Shemaiah son of
Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was confined
there. He said, "Let us meet at the house of God,
inside the temple, and close the temple doors.
They are coming to kill you; they are coming to
kill you at night."
11 But I said, "Should a man like me run away?
And who like me could enter the temple and
live? I will not go in."
12 Then I realized that God had not sent him.
He had spoken this prophecy against me
because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.
13 He had been hired to make me afraid, so
that I would act that way and sin. Then they
would have grounds to give me a bad name and
disgrace me.

14 Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, my God,
according to these deeds of theirs, and also the
prophetess Noadiah and the other prophets who
were trying to frighten me.
15 So the wall was completed on the
twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days.

16 When all our enemies heard this and all the
nations around us saw it, they lost much of their
confidence, for they recognized that this work
had been done by our God.
17 Also in those days, the nobles of Judah sent
many letters to Tobiah, and letters from Tobiah
came to them.
18 For many in Judah were bound to him by an
oath, since he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah
son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married
the daughter of Meshullam son of Berechiah.
19 They also kept telling me about his good
deeds and reporting my words to him. Tobiah
sent letters to frighten me.

7

1 After the wall had been rebuilt and I had set
up the doors, the gatekeepers, singers, and
Levites were appointed.
2 I put my brother Hanani and Hananiah, the
commander of the citadel, in charge of
Jerusalem, because Hananiah was a faithful
man who feared God more than many others.
3 I said to them, “The gates of Jerusalem must
not be opened until the sun is hot. While the
guards are still at their posts, have them shut
and bar the doors. Appoint guards from among
Jerusalem's inhabitants, each at his post and
each opposite his own house.”
4 The city was spacious and large, but there
were few people in it, and no houses had been
built.

5 My God put it into my heart to gather the
nobles, the deputies, and the people to be
registered by ancestry. I found the genealogical
register of those who had come up at first, and
this is what I found written in it:
6 These are the people of the province who
came up from captivity, from among the exiles
whom King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had
carried away. They returned to Jerusalem and
Judah, each to his own town.
7 They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua,
Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani,
Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum,
and Baanah. The number of the men of the
people of Israel was as follows:
8 The descendants of Parosh: 2,172.
9 The descendants of Shephatiah: 372.
10 The descendants of Arah: 652.
11 The descendants of Pahath-moab, from the
descendants of Jeshua and Joab: 2,818.
12 The descendants of Elam: 1,254.
13 The descendants of Zattu: 845.
14 The descendants of Zaccai: 760.
15 The descendants of Binnui: 648.
16 The descendants of Bebai: 628.
17 The descendants of Azgad: 2,322.
18 The descendants of Adonikam: 667.
19 The descendants of Bigvai: 2,067.
20 The descendants of Adin: 655.
21 The descendants of Ater, of Hezekiah: 98.
22 The descendants of Hashum: 328.
23 The descendants of Bezai: 324.
24 The descendants of Hariph: 112.
25 The people of Gibeon: 95.
26 The men of Bethlehem and Netophah: 188.

27 The men of Anathoth: 128.
28 The men of Beth-azmaveth: 42.
29 The men of Kiriath-jearim, Chephirah, and
Beeroth: 743.
30 The men of Ramah and Geba: 621.
31 The men of Michmas: 122.
32 The men of Bethel and Ai: 123.
33 The men of the other Nebo: 52.
34 The descendants of the other Elam: 1,254.
35 The descendants of Harim: 320.
36 The people of Jericho: 345.
37 The people of Lod, Hadid, and Ono: 721.
38 The people of Senaah: 3,930.
39 The priests: the descendants of Jedaiah, of
the house of Jeshua, 973;
40 the descendants of Immer, 1,052;
41 the descendants of Pashhur, 1,247;
42 the descendants of Harim, 1,017.
43 The Levites: the descendants of Jeshua and
Kadmiel, from the descendants of Hodevah, 74.
44 The singers: the descendants of Asaph, 148.
45 The gatekeepers: the descendants of
Shallum, Ater, Talmon, Akkub, Hatita, and
Shobai, 138.
46 The temple servants: the descendants of
Ziha, the descendants of Hasupha, the
descendants of Tabbaoth,
47 the descendants of Keros, the descendants
of Sia, the descendants of Padon,
48 the descendants of Lebana, the descendants
of Hagaba, the descendants of Shalmai,
49 the descendants of Hanan, the descendants
of Giddel, the descendants of Gahar,
50 the descendants of Reaiah, the descendants
of Rezin, the descendants of Nekoda,

51 the descendants of Gazzam, the descendants
of Uzza, the descendants of Paseah,
52 the descendants of Besai, the descendants of
Meunim, the descendants of Nephushesim,
53 the descendants of Bakbuk, the descendants
of Hakupha, the descendants of Harhur,
54 the descendants of Bazlith, the descendants
of Mehida, the descendants of Harsha,
55 the descendants of Barkos, the descendants
of Sisera, the descendants of Temah,
56 the descendants of Neziah, and the
descendants of Hatipha.
57 The descendants of Solomon's servants: the
descendants of Sotai, the descendants of
Sophereth, the descendants of Perida,
58 the descendants of Jaala, the descendants of
Darkon, the descendants of Giddel,
59 the descendants of Shephatiah, the
descendants of Hattil, the descendants of
Pochereth-hazzebaim, and the descendants of
Amon.
60 All the temple servants and the descendants
of Solomon's servants numbered 392.
61 These were the people who came up from
Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addon, and
Immer, but could not establish their ancestral
family or descent to show whether they were
Israelites:
62 the descendants of Delaiah, Tobiah, and
Nekoda, 642.
63 And from the priests: the descendants of
Hobaiah, the descendants of Hakkoz, and the
descendants of Barzillai, who had married one
of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite and
was called by their family name.

64 These searched for their entries in the
genealogical records, but they were not found,
so they were excluded from the priesthood as
defiled.
65 The governor told them not to eat any of the
most holy things until a priest should arise with
the Urim and Thummim.
66 The whole assembly together numbered
42,360,
67 besides their male and female slaves, who
numbered 7,337. They also had 245 male and
female singers.
68 [They had 736 horses and 245 mules.]
69 They had 435 camels and 6,720 donkeys.
70 Some of the heads of ancestral families gave
toward the work. The governor gave to the
treasury 1,000 gold coins, fifty bowls, and 530
priestly robes.
71 Some of the heads of ancestral families gave
to the treasury for the work 20,000 gold coins
and about 2,750 pounds of silver.
72 The rest of the people gave 20,000 gold
coins, about 2,500 pounds of silver, and
sixty-seven priestly robes.
73 The priests, Levites, gatekeepers, singers,
some of the people, the temple servants, and all
Israel settled in their towns. When the seventh
month came, the Israelites were in their towns.

8

1 All the people gathered as one in the square
in front of the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the

scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses,
which the LORD had commanded Israel.
2 So Ezra the priest brought the law before the
assembly of men, women, and all who could
understand what they heard, on the first day of
the seventh month.
3 He read from it facing the square in front of
the Water Gate from daybreak until noon,
before the men, the women, and those who
could understand. All the people listened
attentively to the Book of the Law.
4 Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform
they had made for the occasion. Beside him on
his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah,
Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah; on his left stood
Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum,
Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam.
5 Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the
people, for he was above them all. When he
opened it, all the people stood.
6 Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all
the people answered, “Amen! Amen!” as they
lifted their hands. Then they bowed down and
worshiped the LORD with their faces to the
ground.
7 Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub,
Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah,
Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites helped
the people understand the law, while the people
remained in their places.
8 They read clearly from the book, from the
Law of God, giving the meaning so that the
people understood the reading.

9 Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and
scribe, and the Levites who were helping the
people understand said to all the people, “This
day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn
or weep.” For all the people were weeping as
they heard the words of the law.
10 Then he said to them, “Go, eat rich food and
drink sweet drinks, and send portions to those
who have nothing prepared, for this day is holy
to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the
LORD is your strength.”
11 The Levites quieted all the people, saying,
“Be still, for this day is holy. Do not grieve.”
12 Then all the people went away to eat and
drink, to send portions, and to celebrate with
great joy, because they had understood the
words that had been made known to them.
13 On the second day, the heads of the
ancestral families of all the people, along with
the priests and Levites, gathered around Ezra
the scribe to gain insight into the words of the
law.
14 They found written in the law that the
LORD had commanded through Moses that the
Israelites were to live in booths during the
festival in the seventh month,
15 and that they were to announce and
proclaim in all their towns and in Jerusalem, “Go
out to the hill country and bring branches of
olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and leafy trees to
make booths, as it is written.”
16 So the people went out, brought the
branches, and made booths for themselves, each

on his roof, in their courtyards, in the courts of the house of God, in the square at the Water Gate, and in the square at the Ephraim Gate.
17 The whole assembly of those who had returned from captivity made booths and lived in them. From the days of Jeshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not done so. And there was very great joy.
18 Day after day, from the first day to the last, he read from the Book of the Law of God. They celebrated the festival for seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the ordinance.

9

1 On the twenty-fourth day of that same month, the Israelites gathered, fasting and wearing sackcloth, with dust on them.
2 The descendants of Israel separated themselves from all foreigners. They stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their ancestors.
3 They stood in their places and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day. For another quarter they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God.
4 Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani stood on the Levites' steps and cried out with a loud voice to the LORD their God.
5 Then the Levites—Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah—said, “Stand up and bless the

LORD your God from everlasting to everlasting!
May your glorious name be blessed, exalted
above all blessing and praise.

6 You alone are the LORD.
You made the heavens, the highest heavens
and all their host, the earth and all that is
on it, the seas and all that is in them.
You give life to them all, and the host of
heaven worships you.

7 You are the LORD God, who chose Abram,
brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans,
and gave him the name Abraham.

8 You found his heart faithful before you and
made a covenant with him to give the
land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites,
Perizzites, Jebusites, and Girgashites—to
give it to his descendants.
You kept your words, for you are righteous.

9 You saw the affliction of our ancestors in Egypt
and heard their cry at the Red Sea.

10 You performed signs and wonders against
Pharaoh, all his servants, and all the
people of his land, for you knew that they
had acted arrogantly toward them.
You made a name for yourself that remains
to this day.

11 You divided the sea before them, and they
passed through the midst of the sea on
dry ground.
You cast their pursuers into the depths, like
a stone into mighty waters.

12 You led them by day with a pillar of cloud, and
by night with a pillar of fire to light the
way they were to go.
13 You came down on Mount Sinai and spoke
with them from heaven.
You gave them just ordinances and true
laws, good statutes and commandments.
14 You made your holy Sabbath known to them
and commanded them precepts, statutes,
and a law through Moses your servant.
15 You gave them bread from heaven for their
hunger and brought water out of a rock
for their thirst.
You told them to enter and possess the land
you had raised your hand in an oath to
give them.
16 But they and our ancestors acted arrogantly,
stiffened their necks, and did not obey
your commandments.
17 They refused to listen and did not remember
the wonders you had done among them.
They stiffened their necks and, in their
rebellion, appointed a leader to return to
their slavery.
But you are a God of forgiveness, gracious
and compassionate, slow to anger and
abounding in faithful love, and you did
not abandon them.
18 Even when they made a cast-metal calf for
themselves and said, 'This is your god,
who brought you up from Egypt,' and
committed great acts of contempt,

19 you, in your great compassion, did not
abandon them in the wilderness.
The pillar of cloud did not leave them by
day, to lead them on the way, nor the
pillar of fire by night, to give them light on
the way they were to go.
20 You gave your good Spirit to instruct them.
You did not withhold your manna from
their mouths, and you gave them water
for their thirst.
21 For forty years you sustained them in the
wilderness;
they lacked nothing.
Their clothes did not wear out, and their
feet did not swell.
22 You gave them kingdoms and peoples and
apportioned these by region.
They took possession of the land of Sihon,
the land of the king of Heshbon, and the
land of Og king of Bashan.
23 You made their children as numerous as the
stars of heaven and brought them into the
land you had told their ancestors to enter
and possess.
24 Their children entered and possessed the
land, and you subdued before them its
inhabitants, the Canaanites.
You gave them into their hands, along with
their kings and the peoples of the land, to
do with them as they pleased.
25 They captured fortified cities and fertile land.
They took possession of houses full of every
good thing, cisterns hewn out of rock,

vineyards, olive groves, and fruit trees in
abundance.
They ate, were satisfied, grew fat, and
delighted in your great goodness.
26 But they were disobedient and rebelled
against you.
They cast your law behind their backs and
killed your prophets, who warned them to
turn back to you.
They committed great acts of contempt.
27 So you gave them into the hands of their
adversaries, who oppressed them.
In their distress they would cry out to you,
and you would hear from heaven.
In your great compassion you would give
them deliverers, who rescued them from
the hands of their adversaries.
28 But as soon as they had rest, they would again
do evil before you.
You would abandon them into the hands of
their enemies, who ruled over them.
Yet when they cried out to you again, you
would hear from heaven and rescue them
many times in your compassion.
29 You warned them to turn back to your law,
but they acted arrogantly and did not
obey your commandments.
They sinned against your ordinances, by
which a person will live if he obeys them.
They stubbornly turned their shoulders
away, stiffened their necks, and would not
listen.

30 For many years you were patient with them
and warned them by your Spirit through
your prophets, but they would not listen.
So you gave them into the hands of the
peoples of the lands.
31 Yet in your great compassion you did not make
an end of them or abandon them, for you
are a gracious and compassionate God.
32 Now, our God, the great, mighty, and
awe-inspiring God who keeps the
covenant and faithful love, do not regard
as small all the hardship that has come
upon us—upon our kings, our rulers, our
priests, our prophets, our ancestors, and
all your people—from the days of the
kings of Assyria until this day.
33 You have been righteous in all that has come
upon us, for you have acted faithfully,
while we have acted wickedly.
34 Our kings, our rulers, our priests, and our
ancestors did not keep your law or pay
attention to your commandments and the
testimonies by which you warned them.
35 Even in their own kingdom, with the great
goodness you gave them and in the
spacious, fertile land you set before them,
they did not serve you or turn from their
evil deeds.
36 Here we are today, slaves!
In the land you gave our ancestors to eat its
fruit and its good things, here we are,
slaves in it.

37 Its abundant produce goes to the kings you
have set over us because of our sins.
They rule over our bodies and our livestock
as they please, and we are in great
distress.”
38 Because of all this, we are making a binding
agreement and putting it in writing. On the
sealed document are our rulers, our Levites, and
our priests.

10

1 Those who sealed it were Nehemiah the
governor, son of Hacaliah, and Zedekiah;
2 Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah,
3 Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah,
4 Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch,
5 Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah,
6 Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch,
7 Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin,
8 Maaziah, Bilgai, and Shemaiah. These were
the priests.
9 The Levites were Jeshua son of Azaniah,
Binnui from the descendants of Henadad,
Kadmiel,
10 and their brothers Shebaniah, Hodiah,
Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan,
11 Mica, Rehob, Hashabiah,
12 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah,
13 Hodiah, Bani, and Beninu.
14 The heads of the people were Parosh,
Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani,
15 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai,
16 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin,
17 Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur,

18 Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai,
19 Hariph, Anathoth, Nobai,
20 Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir,
21 Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua,
22 Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah,
23 Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub,
24 Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek,
25 Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah,
26 Ahijah, Hanan, Anan,
27 Malluch, Harim, and Baanah.
28 The rest of the people—the priests, Levites, gatekeepers, singers, temple servants, and all who had separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to follow the Law of God, together with their wives, sons, and daughters, all who had knowledge and understanding—
29 joined their brothers, their nobles, and bound themselves with a curse and an oath to walk in the Law of God given through Moses the servant of God, and to keep and carry out all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, his ordinances and his statutes:
30 “We will not give our daughters in marriage to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons.
31 When the peoples of the land bring merchandise or any kind of grain to sell on the Sabbath, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on a holy day. We will leave the land fallow in the seventh year and forgo collection of every debt.
32 We have also placed ourselves under an obligation to give about one-eighth of an ounce

of silver each year for the service of the house of our God:
33 for the bread of the Presence, the regular grain offering and regular burnt offering, the Sabbaths, the new moons, the appointed festivals, the holy things, the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and all the work of the house of our God.
34 We—the priests, the Levites, and the people—have cast lots concerning the wood offering, to bring it to the house of our God by our ancestral families at appointed times year after year, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the law.
35 We will bring the firstfruits of our soil and the firstfruits of every kind of fruit from every tree to the house of the LORD year after year.
36 We will also bring the firstborn of our sons and our livestock, as it is written in the law, and the firstborn of our herds and flocks to the house of our God, to the priests who serve in the house of our God.
37 We will bring the first of our dough, our contributions, the fruit of every tree, new wine, and oil to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God, and the tithe of our soil to the Levites. It is the Levites who collect the tithes in all the towns where we farm.
38 A priest, a descendant of Aaron, will be with the Levites when they collect the tithes. The Levites will bring a tithe of the tithes up to the house of our God, to the chambers in the storehouse.
39 For the Israelites and the descendants of

Levi will bring the contributions of grain, new
wine, and oil to the chambers. There are the
sanctuary utensils, the serving priests, the
gatekeepers, and the singers. We will not neglect
the house of our God."

11

1 The rulers of the people lived in Jerusalem.
The rest of the people cast lots to bring one in
every ten to live in Jerusalem, the holy city,
while the other nine parts remained in the other
towns.
2 The people blessed all the men who
volunteered to live in Jerusalem.
3 These are the heads of the province who
lived in Jerusalem. In the towns of Judah, the
Israelites, priests, Levites, temple servants, and
descendants of Solomon's servants lived in their
towns, each on his own property.
4 Some of the descendants of Judah and
Benjamin lived in Jerusalem. From the
descendants of Judah: Athaiah son of Uzziah,
son of Zechariah, son of Amariah, son of
Shephatiah, son of Mahalalel, from the
descendants of Perez;
5 and Maaseiah son of Baruch, son of
Col-hozeh, son of Hazaiah, son of Adaiah, son of
Joiarib, son of Zechariah, son of the Shilonite.
6 All the descendants of Perez who lived in
Jerusalem numbered 468 valiant men.
7 These are the descendants of Benjamin:
Sallu son of Meshullam, son of Joed, son of
Pedaiah, son of Kolaiah, son of Maaseiah, son of
Ithiel, son of Jeshaiah;

8 and after him Gabbai and Sallai—928.
9 Joel son of Zichri was their overseer, and
Judah son of Hassenuah was second in
command over the city.

10 From the priests: Jedaiah son of Joiarib,
Jachin,
11 and Seraiah son of Hilkiah, son of
Meshullam, son of Zadok, son of Meraioth, son
of Ahitub, the leader of the house of God;
12 and their brothers who did the work of the
house, 822. Also Adaiah son of Jeroham, son of
Pelaliah, son of Amzi, son of Zechariah, son of
Pashhur, son of Malchijah,
13 and his brothers, heads of ancestral
families, 242. Also Amashsai son of Azarel, son
of Ahzai, son of Meshillemoth, son of Immer,
14 and their brothers, mighty men of valor, 128.
Their overseer was Zabdiel, from a noble family.

15 From the Levites: Shemaiah son of Hasshub,
son of Azrikam, son of Hashabiah, son of Bunni;
16 Shabbethai and Jozabad, from the heads of
the Levites, who were in charge of the outside
work of the house of God;
17 Mattaniah son of Micah, son of Zabdi, son of
Asaph, the leader who began the thanksgiving in
prayer; Bakbukiah, second among his brothers;
and Abda son of Shammua, son of Galal, son of
Jedithun.
18 All the Levites in the holy city numbered
284.

19 The gatekeepers—Akkub, Talmon, and their
brothers who kept watch at the
gates—numbered 172.

20 The rest of Israel, the priests, and the
Levites lived in all the towns of Judah, each on
his own inheritance.
21 The temple servants lived on Ophel, and
Ziha and Gishpa were in charge of the temple
servants.
22 The overseer of the Levites in Jerusalem
was Uzzi son of Bani, son of Hashabiah, son of
Mattaniah, son of Mica, from the descendants of
Asaph, the singers responsible for the work of
the house of God.
23 For there was a command from the king
concerning them, and an established provision
for the singers day by day.
24 Pethahiah son of Meshezabel, from the
descendants of Zerah son of Judah, was the
king's representative in all matters concerning
the people.
25 As for the villages and their fields, some of
the descendants of Judah lived in Kiriath-arba
and its settlements, in Dibon and its settlements,
in Jekabzeel and its villages,
26 in Jeshua, Moladah, Beth-pelet,
27 Hazar-shual, Beersheba and its settlements,
28 Ziklag, Meconah and its settlements,
29 En-rimmon, Zorah, Jarmuth,
30 Zanoah, Adullam and their villages, Lachish
and its fields, and Azekah and its settlements.
They settled from Beersheba to the Valley of
Hinnom.
31 The descendants of Benjamin lived from
Geba onward: in Michmash, Aija, Bethel and its
settlements,
32 Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah,

33 Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim,
34 Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat,
35 Lod, and Ono, the Valley of Craftsmen.
36 Some divisions of the Levites from Judah settled in Benjamin.

12

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

8 The Levites were Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, who, with his brothers, was in charge of the thanksgiving songs.
9 Bakbukiah and Unno, their brothers, stood opposite them in their service divisions.
10 Jeshua was the father of Joiakim, Joiakim was the father of Eliashib, and Eliashib was the father of Joiada.
11 Joiada was the father of Jonathan, and Jonathan was the father of Jaddua.
12 In the days of Joiakim, the priests who were heads of ancestral families were: for Seraiah's family, Meraiah; for Jeremiah's, Hananiah;

13 for Ezra's, Meshullam; for Amariah's,
Jehohanan;
14 for Malluchi's, Jonathan; for Shebaniah's,
Joseph;
15 for Harim's, Adna; for Meraioth's, Helkai;
16 for Iddo's, Zechariah; for Ginnethon's,
Meshullam;
17 for Abijah's, Zichri; for Miniamin's; for
Moadiah's, Piltai;
18 for Bilgah's, Shammua; for Shemaiah's,
Jehonathan;
19 for Joiarib's, Mattenai; for Jedaiah's, Uzzi;
20 for Sallai's, Kallai; for Amok's, Eber;
21 for Hilkiah's, Hashabiah; for Jedaiah's,
Nethanel.
22 In the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan, and
Jaddua, the heads of the Levite ancestral
families were recorded, as were the priests
during the reign of Darius the Persian.

23 The descendants of Levi who were heads of
ancestral families were recorded in the book of
the chronicles until the days of Johanan son of
Eliashib.
24 The heads of the Levites were Hashabiah,
Sherebiah, and Jeshua son of Kadmiel. Their
brothers stood opposite them to praise and give
thanks according to the command of David the
man of God, one division opposite another.
25 Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam,
Talmon, and Akkub were gatekeepers keeping
watch at the storerooms of the gates.
26 These served in the days of Joiakim son of
Jeshua, son of Jozadak, and in the days of

Nehemiah the governor and Ezra the priest and scribe.

27 At the dedication of Jerusalem's wall, they sought out the Levites from all the places where they lived, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with joy, thanksgivings, and songs, with cymbals, harps, and lyres.
28 The descendants of the singers gathered from the region around Jerusalem and from the villages of the Netophathites,
29 from Beth-gilgal, and from the fields of Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built villages for themselves around Jerusalem.
30 The priests and Levites purified themselves, and they purified the people, the gates, and the wall.
31 Then I brought the rulers of Judah up onto the wall and organized two large thanksgiving choirs for the processions. One went to the right on top of the wall toward the Dung Gate.
32 Hoshaiah and half the rulers of Judah followed them,
33 along with Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam,
34 Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, and Jeremiah,
35 and some of the descendants of the priests with trumpets. Also Zechariah son of Jonathan, son of Shemaiah, son of Mattaniah, son of Micaiah, son of Zaccur, son of Asaph,
36 and his brothers Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani went with the musical instruments of David the man of God. Ezra the scribe went ahead of them.

37 At the Fountain Gate they climbed the steps
of the City of David directly ahead of them, at
the ascent to the wall, above the house of David,
as far as the Water Gate on the east.
38 The second thanksgiving choir went in the
opposite direction. I followed it with half the
people on top of the wall, past the Tower of the
Ovens to the Broad Wall,
39 past the Ephraim Gate, the Old Gate, the
Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel, and the Tower
of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate. They
stopped at the Gate of the Guard.
40 The two thanksgiving choirs took their
places at the house of God, as did I and half the
deputies with me,
41 along with the priests Eliakim, Maaseiah,
Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and
Hananiah, with trumpets,
42 and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi,
Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. The
singers made their voices heard, with Izrahiah
as their overseer.
43 That day they offered great sacrifices and
rejoiced, for God had given them great joy. The
women and children also rejoiced, and the joy of
Jerusalem could be heard far away.
44 That day men were appointed over the
chambers for the treasures, contributions,
firstfruits, and tithes, to gather into them from
the towns' fields the portions the law assigned to
the priests and Levites. For Judah rejoiced over
the priests and Levites who served.
45 They kept the service of their God and the

service of purification, as did the singers and gatekeepers, according to the command of David and his son Solomon.
46 For in the days of David and Asaph long ago there was a leader of the singers, and there were songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.
47 In the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah, all Israel gave the singers and gatekeepers their daily portions. They also set apart portions for the Levites, and the Levites set apart portions for the descendants of Aaron.

13

1 That day the Book of Moses was read aloud to the people, and it was found written in it that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God,
2 because they had not met the Israelites with bread and water, and Balaam had been hired to curse Israel. But our God turned the curse into a blessing.
3 When they heard the law, they separated all the mixed multitude from Israel.
4 Before this, Eliashib the priest, who was in charge of the chamber of the house of our God, was related to Tobiah.
5 He had prepared a large chamber for him where previously they had stored the grain offering, the frankincense, the utensils, and the tithes of grain, new wine, and oil commanded for the Levites, singers, and gatekeepers, along with the contribution for the priests.
6 During all this I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of

Babylon I had gone to the king. After some time
I requested leave from the king
7 and returned to Jerusalem. Then I learned of
the evil Eliashib had done for Tobiah by
preparing a chamber for him in the courts of the
house of God.
8 This displeased me greatly, and I threw all
Tobiah's household belongings out of the
chamber.
9 I gave orders, and they purified the
chambers. Then I brought back there the
utensils of the house of God, the grain offering,
and the frankincense.
10 I also learned that the Levites had not been
given their portions, and that the Levites and
singers who did the work had fled, each to his
own field.
11 So I confronted the deputies and said, “Why
has the house of God been neglected?” Then I
gathered the workers and restored them to their
posts.
12 All Judah brought the tithe of grain, new
wine, and oil to the storehouses.
13 I appointed Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the
scribe, and Pedaiah from the Levites over the
storehouses, with Hanan son of Zaccur, son of
Mattaniah, as their assistant. They were
considered faithful, and their responsibility was
to distribute the portions to their brothers.
14 Remember me for this, my God, and do not
blot out my acts of faithfulness that I have done
for the house of my God and its service.
15 In those days I saw people in Judah treading
winepresses on the Sabbath, bringing in heaps

of grain and loading them on donkeys, along with wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, and bringing them into Jerusalem on the Sabbath. I warned them on the day they sold provisions.

16 People from Tyre who lived there brought fish and all kinds of merchandise and sold them on the Sabbath to the people of Judah, in Jerusalem itself.

17 So I confronted the nobles of Judah and said to them, “What is this evil you are doing, profaning the Sabbath day?

18 Did not your ancestors do the same, so that our God brought all this disaster on us and on this city? Yet you are adding to the wrath against Israel by profaning the Sabbath!”

19 As the gates of Jerusalem began to fall into shadow before the Sabbath, I gave orders for the doors to be shut. I ordered that they not be opened until after the Sabbath. I stationed some of my servants at the gates so that no load would be brought in on the Sabbath day.

20 The merchants and sellers of all kinds of goods spent the night outside Jerusalem once or twice.

21 But I warned them and said, “Why are you spending the night in front of the wall? If you do it again, I will lay hands on you!” From that time on they no longer came on the Sabbath.

22 I told the Levites to purify themselves and come guard the gates to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember this also in my favor, my God,

and spare me according to your abundant faithful love.

23 In those days I also saw Jews who had married women from Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab.
24 Their children, half of whom spoke the language of Ashdod, did not know how to speak the language of Judah, but spoke the language of their respective people.
25 I confronted them, cursed them, struck some of the men, and pulled out their hair. I made them swear by God: “You must not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves.
26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin in these matters? Among the many nations there was no king like him. He was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Yet even he was led into sin by foreign women.
27 Must we hear that you are doing all this great evil, acting unfaithfully toward our God by marrying foreign women?”
28 One of the sons of Joiada son of Eliashib the high priest was the son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite, so I drove him away from me.
29 Remember them, my God, for defiling the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.
30 I purified them from everything foreign and established service divisions for the priests and Levites, each in his own work.
31 I also made arrangements for the wood offering at the appointed times and for the

firstfruits. Remember me for good, my God.

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