Nehemiah

1 These are the words of Nehemiah son of
Hacaliah:
In the month of Chislev,* in the twentieth year,
while I was in the citadel of Susa,
2 Hanani, one of my brothers, arrived with
men from Judah. So I questioned them about the
remnant of the Jews who had survived the exile,
and also about Jerusalem.
3 And they told me, “The remnant who
survived the exile are there in the province, in
great trouble and disgrace. The wall of
Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have
been burned with fire.”
4 When I heard these words, I sat down and
wept. I mourned for days, fasting and praying
before the God of heaven.
5 Then I said:
“O LORD, God of heaven, the great and
awesome God who keeps his covenant of loving
devotion† with those who love him and keep his
commandments,
6 let your eyes be open and your ears attentive
to hear the prayer that I, your servant, now pray

* **1:1 1:1** *Chislev* is the ninth month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of November and December.
† **1:5 1:5** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

before you day and night for your servants, the
Israelites.

I confess the sins that we Israelites have
committed against you. Both I and my father's
house have sinned.
7 We have behaved corruptly against you and
have not kept the commandments, statutes, and
ordinances that you gave your servant Moses.

8 Remember, I pray, the word that you
commanded your servant Moses when you said,
'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among
the nations,
9 but if you return to me and keep and
practice my commandments, then even if your
exiles have been banished to the farthest
horizon,‡ I will gather them from there and
bring them to the place I have chosen as a
dwelling for my Name.'§

10 They are your servants and your people.
You redeemed them by your great power and
mighty hand.
11 O Lord, may your ear be attentive to the
prayer of your servant and to the prayer of your
servants* who delight to revere your name.
Give your servant success this day, I pray, and
grant him mercy in the sight of this man."

(At that time I was the cupbearer to the king.)

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‡ **1:9 1:9** Or *to the extremity of the heavens* § **1:9 1:9** Deuteronomy 30:1–4 * **1:11 1:11** Or *to my prayer and to the prayers of your servants*

2

1 Now in the month of Nisan,* in the twentieth
year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was set
before him, I took the wine and gave it to the
king. I had never been sad in his presence,
2 so the king said to me, “Why is your face sad,
though you are not ill? This could only be
sadness of the heart.”
I was overwhelmed with fear
3 and replied to the king, “May the king live
forever! Why should I not be sad when the city
where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and
its gates have been destroyed by fire?”
4 “What is your request?” replied the king.
So I prayed to the God of heaven
5 and answered the king, “If it pleases the king,
and if your servant has found favor in your
sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city
where my fathers are buried, so that I may
rebuild it.”
6 Then the king, with the queen seated beside
him, asked me, “How long will your journey
take, and when will you return?” So it pleased
the king to send me, and I set a time.
7 I also said to him, “If it pleases the king, may
letters be given to me for the governors west of
the Euphrates,† so that they will grant me safe
passage until I reach Judah.
8 And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of
the king's forest, so that he will give me timber

* **2:1 2:1** *Nisan* is the first month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of March and April. † **2:7 2:7** Hebrew *beyond the River*; also in verse 9

to make beams for the gates of the citadel to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house I will occupy."

And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests.

9 Then I went to the governors west of the Euphrates and gave them the king's letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me.

10 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were deeply disturbed that someone had come to seek the well-being of the Israelites.

11 After I had arrived in Jerusalem and had been there three days,

12 I set out at night with a few men. I did not tell anyone what my God had laid on my heart to do for Jerusalem. The only animal with me was the one on which I was riding.

13 So I went out at night through the Valley Gate toward the Well of the Jackal‡ and the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and the gates that had been destroyed by fire.

14 Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal under me to get through;

15 so I went up the valley by night and inspected the wall. Then I headed back and reentered through the Valley Gate.

16 The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, for I had not yet told the

‡ **2:13 2:13** Or *Dragon* or *Serpent*

Jews or priests or nobles or officials or any other workers.

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

18 I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me, and what the king had said to me.

“Let us start rebuilding,” they replied, and they set their hands to this good work.

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard about this, they mocked us and ridiculed us, saying, “What is this you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?”

20 So I answered them and said, “The God of heaven is the One who will grant us success. We, his servants, will start rebuilding, but you have no portion, right, or claim in Jerusalem.”

3

1 At the Sheep Gate, Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests began rebuilding. They dedicated it and installed its doors. After building as far as the Tower of the Hundred and the Tower of Hananel, they dedicated the wall.

2 The men of Jericho built next to Eliashib, and Zaccur son of Imri built next to them.

3 The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and installed its doors, bolts, and bars.

4 Next to them, Meremoth son of Uriah, the
son of Hakkoz, made repairs. Next to him,
Meshullam son of Berechiah, the son of
Meshezabel, made repairs; and next to him,
Zadok son of Baana made repairs as well.
5 Next to him, the Tekoites made repairs, but
their nobles did not put their shoulders to the
work under their supervisors.*
6 The Jeshanah Gate† was repaired by Joiada
son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah.
They laid its beams and installed its doors, bolts,
and bars.
7 Next to them, repairs were made by Melatiah
the Gibeonite, Jadon the Meronothite, and the
men of Gibeon and Mizpah, who were under the
authority of the governor of the region west of
the Euphrates.‡
8 Next to them, Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of
the goldsmiths, made repairs. And next to him,
Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs.
They fortified Jerusalem as far as the Broad
Wall.
9 Next to them, Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of a
half-district of Jerusalem, made repairs;
10 next to him, Jedaiah son of Harumaph made
repairs across from his house; and next to him,
Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs.
11 Malchijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of
Pahath-moab repaired another section, as well
as the Tower of the Ovens.

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* **3:5 3:5** Or *their Lord* or *the governor* † **3:6 3:6** Or *The Old City Gate* ‡ **3:7 3:7** Hebrew *the governor beyond the River*

12 And next to them, Shallum son of Hallohesh,
ruler of the other half-district of Jerusalem,
made repairs, with the help of his daughters.

13 The Valley Gate was repaired by Hanun and
the residents of Zanoah. They rebuilt it, installed
its doors, bolts, and bars, and repaired a
thousand cubits§ of the wall as far as the Dung
Gate.

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

15 The Fountain Gate was repaired by Shallun*
son of Col-hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah.
He rebuilt it, roofed it, and installed† its doors,
bolts, and bars. He also repaired the wall of the
Pool of Shelah‡ near the king's garden, as far as
the stairs that descend from the City of David.

16 Beyond him, Nehemiah son of Azbuk, ruler
of a half-district of Beth-zur, made repairs up to
a point opposite the tombs of David, as far as the
artificial pool and the House of the Mighty.

17 Next to him, the Levites made repairs under
Rehum son of Bani, and next to him, Hashabiah,
ruler of a half-district of Keilah, made repairs
for his district.

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§ **3:13 3:13** *1,000 cubits* is approximately 1,500 feet or 457.2 meters. * **3:15 3:15** Syriac *Shallum* † **3:15 3:15** Qere; Ketiv *they installed* ‡ **3:15 3:15** *Pool of Shelah* is another name for the Pool of Siloam.

18 Next to him, their countrymen made repairs
under Bavvai§ son of Henadad, ruler of the
other half-district of Keilah.
19 And next to him, Ezer son of Jeshua, ruler of
Mizpah, repaired another section opposite the
ascent to the armory, near the angle in the wall.
20 Next to him, Baruch son of Zaccai* diligently
repaired another section, from the angle to the
doorway of the house of Eliashib the high priest.
21 Next to him, Meremoth son of Uriah, the son
of Hakkoz, repaired another section, from the
doorway of the house of Eliashib to the end of
the house.
22 And next to him, the priests from the
surrounding area made repairs.
23 Beyond them, Benjamin and Hasshub made
repairs in front of their house, and next to them,
Azariah son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah,
made repairs beside his house.
24 After him, Binnui son of Henadad repaired
another section, from the house of Azariah to
the angle and the corner,
25 and Palal son of Uzai made repairs opposite
the angle and the tower that juts out from the
upper palace of the king near the courtyard of
the guard. Next to him, Pedaiah son of Parosh
26 and the temple servants† living on the hill of
Ophel made repairs opposite the Water Gate
toward the east and the tower that juts out.

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§ **3:18 3:18** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; two Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac (see also LXX and Nehemiah 3:24) *Binnui* * **3:20 3:20** Qere; Ketiv *Zabbai* † **3:26 3:26** Hebrew *the Nethinim*; also in verse 31

27 And next to them, the Tekoites repaired
another section, from a point opposite the great
tower that juts out to the wall of Ophel.
28 Above the Horse Gate, each of the priests
made repairs in front of his own house.
29 Next to them, Zadok son of Immer made
repairs opposite his house, and next to him,
Shemaiah son of Shecaniah, the guard of the
East Gate, made repairs.
30 Next to him,‡ Hananiah son of Shelemiah, as
well as Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired
another section. Next to them, Meshullam son of
Berechiah made repairs opposite his own
quarters.
31 Next to him,§ Malchijah, one of the
goldsmiths, 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 above the corner.
32 And between the upper room above the
corner and the Sheep Gate, the goldsmiths and
merchants made repairs.
33 Now when Sanballat heard that we were
rebuilding the wall, he was furious and filled
with indignation. He ridiculed the Jews
34 before his associates and the army of
Samaria, saying, “What are these feeble Jews
doing? Can they restore the wall by
themselves?* Will they offer sacrifices? Will
they complete it in a day? Can they bring these

‡ **3:30 3:30** Qere; Ketiv *Next to me* § **3:31 3:31** Qere; Ketiv *Next to me* * **3:34 3:34** Or *Will they commit themselves to God?*

burnt stones back to life from the mounds of rubble?”
35 Then Tobiah the Ammonite, who was beside him, said, “If even a fox were to climb up on what they are building, it would break down their wall of stones!”
36 Hear us, O God, for we are despised. Turn their scorn back upon their own heads, and let them be taken as plunder to a land of captivity.
37 Do not cover up their iniquity or let their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked the builders.†
38 So we rebuilt the wall until all of it was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

4

1 When Sanballat and Tobiah, together with the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites, heard that the repair to the walls of Jerusalem was progressing and that the gaps were being closed, they were furious,
2 and all of them conspired to come and fight against Jerusalem and create a hindrance.
3 So we prayed to our God and posted a guard against them day and night.
4 Meanwhile, the people of Judah said:*

“The strength of the laborer fails,
and there is so much rubble
that we will never be able

† **3:37 3:37** Or *have provoked you to anger before the builders*
* **4:4 4:4** Or *Meanwhile, Judah said*

to rebuild the wall."
5 And our enemies said, "Before they know or
see a thing, we will come into their midst, kill
them, and put an end to the work."
6 At that time the Jews who lived nearby came
and told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn,
they will attack us."
7 So I stationed men behind the lowest
sections of the wall, at the vulnerable areas. I
stationed them by families with their swords,
spears, and bows.
8 After I had made an inspection, I stood up
and said to the nobles, the officials, 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 and your
daughters, your wives and your homes."
9 When our enemies heard that we were
aware of their scheme and that God had
frustrated it, each of us returned to his own
work on the wall.
10 And from that day on, half of my servants
did the work while the other half held spears,
shields, bows, and armor.
The officers stationed themselves behind all
the people of Judah
11 who were rebuilding the wall. The laborers
who carried materials worked with one hand
and held a weapon with the other.
12 And each of the builders worked with his
sword strapped at his side. But the trumpeter
stayed beside me.
13 Then I said to the nobles, the officials, and
the rest of the people: "The work is great and

extensive, and we are spread out far from one another along the wall.
14 Wherever you hear the sound of the horn, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us!"
15 So we continued the work, while half of the men held spears from the break of dawn until the stars came out.
16 At that time I also said to the people, "Let every man and his servant spend the night inside Jerusalem, so that they can stand guard by night and work by day."
17 So neither I nor my brothers nor my servants nor the guards with me changed out of our clothes; each carried his weapon, even to go for water.†

5

1 About that time there was a great outcry from the people and their wives against their fellow Jews.
2 Some were saying, "We and our sons and daughters are numerous. We must get grain in order to eat and stay alive."
3 Others were saying, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our homes to get grain during the famine."
4 Still others were saying, "We have borrowed money to pay the king's tax on our fields and vineyards.
5 We and our children are just like our countrymen and their children, yet we are

† **4:17 4:17** By emendation *each carried his weapon in his right hand*

subjecting our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters are already enslaved, but we are powerless to redeem them because our fields and vineyards belong to others."

6 When I heard their outcry and these complaints, I became extremely angry,

7 and after serious thought I rebuked the nobles and officials, saying, "You are exacting usury from your own brothers!"

So I called a large assembly against them

8 and said, "We have done our best to buy back our Jewish brothers who were sold to foreigners, but now you are selling your own brothers, that they may be sold back to us!"

But they remained silent, for they could find nothing to say.

9 So I continued, "What you are doing is not right. Shouldn't you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our foreign enemies?

10 I, as well as my brothers and my servants, have been lending the people money and grain. Please, let us stop this usury.

11 Please restore to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves, and houses, along with the percentage of the money, grain, new wine, and oil that you have been assessing them."

12 "We will restore it," they replied, "and will require nothing more from them. We will do as you say."

So I summoned the priests and required of the nobles and officials an oath that they would do what they had promised.

13 I also shook out the folds of my robe and
said, “May God likewise shake out of his house
and possessions every man who does not keep
this promise. May such a man be shaken out
and have nothing!”
The whole assembly said, “Amen,” and they
praised the LORD. And the people did as they
had promised.
14 Furthermore, from the day King Artaxerxes
appointed me to be their governor in the land of
Judah, from his twentieth year until his
thirty-second year (twelve years total), neither I
nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the
governor.
15 The governors before me had heavily
burdened the people, taking from them bread
and wine plus forty shekels of silver.* Their
servants also oppressed the people. But I did not
do this, because of my fear of God.
16 Instead, I devoted myself to the construction
of the wall, and all my servants were gathered
there for the work; we did not acquire any land.
17 There were 150 Jews and officials at my
table, besides the guests from the surrounding
nations.
18 Each day one ox, six choice sheep, and some
fowl were prepared for me, and once every ten
days an abundance of all kinds of wine was
provided. But I did not demand the food allotted
to the governor, because the burden on the
people was so heavy.

* **5:15 5:15** *40 shekels* is approximately 1 pound or 453.6 grams of silver.

19 Remember me favorably, O 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 not a gap was left—though
to that time I had not yet installed the doors in
the gates—
2 Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message:
"Come, let us meet together in Kephirim* in the
valley† 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 to go down
to you?"
4 Four times they sent me the same message,
and each time I gave the same reply.
5 The fifth time, Sanballat sent me this same
message by his young servant, who had in his
hand an unsealed letter
6 that read:
"It is reported among the nations—and
Geshem‡ agrees—that you and the Jews are
plotting to revolt, and this is why you are
building the wall. According to these reports,
you are to become their king,
7 and you have even appointed prophets in
Jerusalem to proclaim on your behalf: 'There is a

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* **6:2 6:2** Or *in one of the villages* † **6:2 6:2** Or *on the plain* ‡ **6:6 6:6** Hebrew *Gashmu*, a variant of *Geshem*; see verse 1.

king in Judah.' Soon these rumors will reach the
ears of the king. So come, let us confer together."

8 Then I sent him this reply: "There is nothing
to these rumors you are spreading; you are
inventing them in your own mind."

9 For they were all trying to frighten us,
saying, "Their hands will be weakened in the
work, and it will never be finished."

But now, strengthen my hands.

10 Later, I went to the house of Shemaiah son
of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was
confined to his house. He said:

"Let us meet at the house of God
inside the temple.
Let us shut the temple doors
because they are coming to kill you—
by night they are coming to kill you!"

11 But I replied, "Should a man like me run
away? Should one like me go into the temple to
save his own life? I will not go!"

12 I realized that God had not sent him, but
that he had uttered this prophecy against me
because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.
13 He had been hired to intimidate me so that I
would sin by doing as he suggested, so they
could give me a bad name in order to discredit
me.

14 O my God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat
for what they have done, and also Noadiah the
prophetess and the other prophets who tried to
intimidate me.

15 So the wall was completed in fifty-two days,
on the twenty-fifth of Elul.§
16 When all our enemies heard about this, all
the surrounding nations saw it* and were
disheartened, for they realized that this task had
been accomplished by our God.
17 Also in those days, the nobles of Judah sent
many letters to Tobiah, and Tobiah's letters kept
coming to them.
18 For many in Judah were bound by oath to
him, since he was a son-in-law of Shecaniah son
of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the
daughter of Meshullam son of Berechiah.
19 Moreover, these nobles kept reporting to me
Tobiah's good deeds, and they relayed my words
to him. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

7

1 When the wall had been rebuilt and I had set
the doors in place, the gatekeepers, singers, and
Levites were appointed.
2 Then I put my brother Hanani in charge of
Jerusalem, along with Hananiah the commander
of the fortress, because he was a faithful man
who feared God more than most.
3 And I told them, "Do not open the gates of
Jerusalem until the sun is hot. While the guards
are on duty, keep the doors shut and securely
fastened. And appoint the residents of

§ **6:15 6:15** *Elul* is the sixth month of the Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of August and September.
* **6:16 6:16** With a different vocalization *were afraid*

Jerusalem as guards, some at their posts and
some at their own homes."
4 Now the city was large and spacious, but
there were few people in it, and the houses had
not yet been rebuilt.
5 Then my God put it into my heart to
assemble the nobles, the officials, and the people
to be enrolled by genealogy. I found the
genealogical register of those who had first
returned, and I found the following written in it:
6 These are the people of the province who
came up from the captivity of the exiles carried
away to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar its king.
They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to
his own town,
7 accompanied by Zerubbabel, Jeshua,
Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani,
Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum,
and Baanah.*
This is the count of the men of Israel:

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 (through
the line 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;

* **7:7 7:7** Parallel text at Ezra 2:2 *accompanied by Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah* † **7:15 7:15** *Binnui* is a variant of *Bani*; see Ezra 2:10.

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 (through Hezekiah),
98;
22 the descendants of Hashum, 328;
23 the descendants of Bezai, 324;
24 the descendants of Hariph,‡ 112;
25 the descendants 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 Michmash, 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 men§ of Jericho, 345;
37 the men of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, 721;
38 and the descendants of Senaah, 3,930.
39 The priests:
the descendants of Jedaiah (through the house
of Jeshua), 973;

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‡ **7:24 7:24** *Hariph* is a variant of *Jorah*; see Ezra 2:18. § **7:25 7:25** *Gibeon* is a variant of *Gibbar*; see Ezra 2:20. * **7:28 7:28** *Beth-azmaveth* is a variant of *Azmaveth*; see Ezra 2:24. † **7:33 7:33** Or *of West Nebo* ‡ **7:34 7:34** Or *of West Elam* § **7:36 7:36** Literally *the sons*; here and in verse 37

40 the descendants of Immer, 1,052;
41 the descendants of Pashhur, 1,247;
42 and the descendants of Harim, 1,017.
43 The Levites:
the descendants of Jeshua (through Kadmiel,
through the line of Hodevah*), 74.
44 The singers:
the descendants of Asaph, 148.
45 The gatekeepers:
the descendants of Shallum,
the descendants of Ater,
the descendants of Talmon,
the descendants of Akkub,
the descendants of Hatita,
and the descendants of Shobai,
138 in all.
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 Lebanah,
the descendants of Hagabah,
the descendants of Shalmai,
49 the descendants of Hanan,
the descendants of Giddel,
the descendants of Gahar,
50 the descendants of Reaiah,

* **7:43 7:43** *Hodevah* is a variant of *Hodaviah*; see Ezra 2:40.
† **7:46 7:46** Hebrew *The Nethinim*; also in verses 60 and 73
‡ **7:47 7:47** *Sia* is a variant of *Siaha*; see Ezra 2:44.

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 the servants of Solomon:

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,

§ **7:52 7:52** *Nephushesim* is a variant of *Nephusim*; see Ezra 2:50.
* **7:54 7:54** *Bazlith* is a variant of *Bazluth*; see Ezra 2:52. † **7:57 7:57** *Perida* is a variant of *Peruda*; see Ezra 2:55.

and the descendants of Amon.‡
60 The temple servants and descendants of the
servants of Solomon numbered 392 in all.
61 The following came up from Tel-melah,
Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addon,§ and Immer, but
they could not prove that their families were
descended from Israel:
62 the descendants of Delaiah,
the descendants of Tobiah,
and the descendants of Nekoda,
642 in all.

63 And from among the priests: the
descendants of Hobaiah,
the descendants of Hakkoz,
and the descendants of Barzillai (who had
married a daughter of Barzillai the Gileadite
and was called by their name).

64 These men searched for their family
records, but they could not find them and so
were excluded from the priesthood as
unclean.
65 The governor ordered them not to eat the
most holy things until there was a priest to
consult the Urim and Thummim.*
66 The whole assembly numbered 42,360,
67 in addition to their 7,337 male and female
slaves, as well as their 245 male and female
singers.

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‡ **7:59 7:59** *Amon* is a variant of *Ami*; see Ezra 2:57. § **7:61 7:61** *Addon* is a variant of *Addan*; see Ezra 2:59. * **7:65 7:65** Literally *Lights and Perfections*

68 They had 435 camels and 6,720 donkeys.†

69 Some of the heads of the families
contributed to the project. The governor gave to
the treasury 1,000 gold drachmas,‡ 50 bowls,
and 530 priestly garments.

70 And some of the heads of the families gave
to the treasury for the project 20,000 gold
drachmas§ and 2,200 minas of silver.*

71 The rest of the people gave a total of 20,000
gold drachmas, 2,000 minas of silver,† and 67
priestly garments.

72 So the priests, Levites, gatekeepers, singers,
and temple servants, along with some of the
people and the rest of the Israelites, settled in
their own towns. And by the seventh month the
Israelites had settled in their towns.

8

1 At that time all the people gathered together
in the square before the Water Gate, and they
asked Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of
the Teaching of Moses, which the LORD had
commanded for Israel.

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† **7:68 7:68** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; some Hebrew manuscripts (see also Ezra 2:66) begin *They had 736 horses, 245 mules,* ‡ **7:69 7:69** Or *1,000 darics of gold*; that is, approximately 18.5 pounds or 8.4 kilograms of gold coins § **7:70 7:70** Or *20,000 darics of gold*; that is, approximately 370.4 pounds or 168 kilograms of gold coins; also in verse 71 * **7:70 7:70** Or *2,200 silver minas*; that is, approximately 1.38 tons or 1.25 metric tons of silver † **7:71 7:71** Or *2,000 silver minas*; that is, approximately 1.26 tons or 1.14 metric tons of silver

2 On the first day of the seventh month, Ezra
the priest brought the Teaching before the
assembly of men and women and all who could
listen and understand.
3 So Ezra read it aloud from daybreak until
noon as he faced the square before the Water
Gate, in front of the men and women and those
who could understand.
And all the people listened attentively to the
Book of the Teaching.
4 Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden
platform built for this occasion. At his right side
stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah,
and Maaseiah, and at his left were Pedaiah,
Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah,
Zechariah, and Meshullam.
5 Ezra opened the book in full view of all the
people, since he was standing above them all,
and as he opened it, all the people stood up.
6 Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God,
and with their hands uplifted, all the people
said, “Amen, Amen!” Then they bowed down
and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the
ground.
7 The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin,
Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita,
Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and
Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Teaching
as they stood in their places.
8 So they read from the Book of the Teaching
of God, translating it* and giving insight, so that

* **8:8 8:8** Or *explaining it* or *paragraph by paragraph*

the people could understand what was being
read.
9 Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and
scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the
people said to all of them, “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 Teaching.
10 Then Nehemiah told them, “Go and eat what
is rich, drink what is sweet, and send out
portions to those who have nothing prepared,
since today is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve,
for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”
11 And the Levites calmed all the people,
saying, “Be still, since today is holy. Do not
grieve.”
12 Then all the people began to eat and drink,
to send out portions, and to rejoice greatly,
because they understood the words that had
been made known to them.
13 On the second day of the month, the heads
of all the families, along with the priests and
Levites, gathered around Ezra the scribe to
study the words of the Teaching.
14 And they found written in the Teaching,
which the LORD had commanded through
Moses, that the Israelites were to dwell in
booths† during the feast of the seventh month,
15 and that they should proclaim this message
and spread it throughout their towns and in
Jerusalem, saying, “Go out to the hill country

† **8:14 8:14** Or *tabernacles* or *shelters*; also in verses 15, 16, and 17

and bring back branches of olive, pine,‡ myrtle,
palm, and other leafy trees, to make booths, as it
is written."§
16 And the people went out, brought back
branches, and made booths on their own
rooftops, in their courtyards, in the courts of the
house of God, and in the squares by the Water
Gate and by the Gate of Ephraim.
17 The whole assembly that had returned from
exile made booths and lived in them. From the
days of Joshua* son of Nun until that day, the
Israelites had not celebrated like this. And there
was very great rejoicing.
18 Day after day, from the first day to the last,
Ezra read from the Book of the Teaching of God.
The Israelites kept the feast for seven days, and
on the eighth day they held an assembly,
according to the ordinance.

9

1 On the twenty-fourth day of the same month,
the Israelites gathered together, fasting and
wearing sackcloth, with dust on their heads.
2 Those of Israelite descent separated
themselves from all the foreigners, and they
stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities
of their fathers.
3 While they stood in their places, they read
from the Book of the Teaching of the LORD their
God for a quarter of the day, and they spent

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‡ **8:15 8:15** Or *wild olive*; literally *oil tree* § **8:15 8:15** See Leviticus 23:37–40. * **8:17 8:17** Hebrew *Jeshua*, a variant of *Joshua*

another quarter of the day in confession and
worship of the LORD their God.
4 And the Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel,
Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and
Chenani—stood on the raised platform and cried
out in 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:

Blessed be your glorious name,
and may it be exalted
above all blessing and praise.
6 You alone are the LORD.
You created the heavens,
the highest heavens with all their host,
the earth and all that is on it,
the seas and all that is in them.
You give life to all things,
and the host of heaven worships you.

7 You are the LORD,
the God who chose Abram,
who 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 and Hittites,
of the Amorites and Perizzites,
of the Jebusites and Girgashites—
to give it to his descendants.
You have kept your promise,
because you are righteous.

9 You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt;
you heard their cry at the Sea of Reeds.*
10 You performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh,
all his officials, and all the people of his land,
for you knew they had acted with arrogance against our fathers.
You made a name for yourself that endures to this day.
11 You divided the sea before them,
and they crossed through it on dry ground.
You hurled their pursuers into the depths like a stone into raging waters.

12 You led them with a pillar of cloud by day
and a pillar of fire by night,
to light for them the way in which they should travel.
13 You came down on Mount Sinai
and spoke with them from heaven.
You gave them just ordinances, true laws,
and good statutes and commandments.
14 You revealed to them your holy Sabbath
and gave them commandments and statutes and laws
through your servant Moses.
15 In their hunger you gave them bread from heaven;
in their thirst you brought them water from the rock.
You told them to go in and possess the land that you had sworn to give them.

* **9:9 9:9** Or *the Red Sea*

16 But they and our fathers became arrogant and
stiff-necked
and did not obey your commandments.
17 They refused to listen and failed to remember
the wonders you performed among them.
They stiffened their necks and appointed a
leader
to return them to their bondage in their
rebellion.†
But you are a forgiving God,
gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in loving devotion,
and you did not forsake them.

18 Even when they cast for themselves
an image of a calf and said,
'This is your God who brought you up out of
Egypt,'
and when they committed terrible
blasphemies,
19 you in your great compassion
did not forsake them in the wilderness.
By day the pillar of cloud never turned away
from guiding them on their path;
and by the night the pillar of fire
illuminated the way they should 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,

† **9:17 9:17** LXX and a few Hebrew manuscripts *in Egypt*

so that they lacked nothing.
Their clothes did not wear out
and their feet did not swell.

22 You gave them kingdoms and peoples
and allotted to them every corner of the land.
So they took the land of Sihon, the land of the king of Heshbon,‡
and of Og king of Bashan.
23 You multiplied their descendants
like the stars of heaven
and brought them to the land
you had told their fathers to enter and possess.
24 So their descendants went in and possessed the land;
you subdued before them the Canaanites dwelling in the land.
You delivered into their hands the kings and peoples of the land,
to do with them as they wished.
25 They captured fortified cities and fertile land
and took houses full of all goods,
wells already dug,
vineyards, olive groves, and fruit trees in abundance.
So they ate and were filled;
they grew fat and delighted in your great goodness.

‡ **9:22 9:22** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; one Hebrew manuscript and LXX *the land of Sihon king of Heshbon*

26 But they were disobedient and rebelled
against you;
they flung your law behind their backs.
They killed your prophets,
who had admonished them to return to you.
They committed terrible blasphemies.
27 So you delivered them into the hands
of enemies who oppressed them,
and in their time of distress they cried out to
you.
From heaven you heard them,
and in your great compassion you gave
them deliverers
who saved them from the hands of their
enemies.
28 But as soon as they had rest,
they again did evil in your sight.
So you abandoned them to the hands of their
enemies,
who had dominion over them.
When they cried out to you again,
you heard from heaven,
and you delivered them many times
in your compassion.

29 You admonished them to turn back to your
law,
but they were arrogant and disobeyed your
commandments.
They sinned against your ordinances,
by which a man will live if he practices
them.
They turned a stubborn shoulder;

they stiffened their necks and would not
obey.
30 You were patient with them for many years,
and your spirit admonished them through
your prophets.
Yet they would not listen,
so you gave them into the hands of the
peoples of the lands.§
31 But in your great compassion,
you did not put an end to them;
nor did you forsake them,
for you are a gracious and compassionate
God.

32 So now, our God, the great and mighty and
awesome God
who keeps his gracious covenant,
do not view lightly all the hardship
that has come upon us,
and upon our kings and leaders,
our priests and prophets,
our ancestors and all your people,
from the days of the kings of Assyria until
today.
33 You are just in all that has befallen us,
because you have acted faithfully,
while we have acted wickedly.
34 Our kings and leaders and priests and fathers
did not obey your law
or listen to your commandments
and warnings that you gave them.

§ **9:30 9:30** Or *into the hands of the neighboring peoples*

35 For even while they were in their kingdom,
with the abundant goodness
that you had given them,
and in the spacious and fertile land
that you had set before them,
they would not serve you
or turn from their wicked ways.

36 So here we are today as slaves
in the land you gave our fathers to enjoy its
fruit and goodness—
here we are as slaves!
37 Its abundant harvest goes to the kings
you have set over us because of our sins.
And they rule over our bodies and our livestock
as they please.
We are in great distress.

10

1 In view of all this, we make a binding
agreement, putting it in writing; and on the
sealed document are our leaders, Levites, and
priests."
2 Now these were the ones who sealed the
document:

Nehemiah the governor, son of Hacaliah,
and also Zedekiah,
3 Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah,
4 Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah,
5 Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch,
6 Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah,
7 Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch,
8 Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin,

9 Maaziah, Bilgai,* and Shemaiah.
These were the priests.
10 The Levites:

Jeshua son of Azaniah,
Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel,
11 and their associates: Shebaniah, Hodiah,
Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan,
12 Mica, Rehob, Hashabiah,
13 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah,
14 Hodiah, Bani, and Beninu.
15 And the leaders of the people:

Parosh, Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani,
16 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai,
17 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin,
18 Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur,
19 Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai,
20 Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai,
21 Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir,
22 Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua,
23 Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah,
24 Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub,
25 Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek,
26 Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah,
27 Ahijah, Hanan, Anan,
28 Malluch, Harim, and Baanah.
29 "The rest of the people—the priests, Levites, gatekeepers, singers, temple servants,† and all who had separated themselves from the people of the land to obey the Teaching of God—along

* **10:9 10:9** *Bilgai* is a variant of *Bilgah*; see Nehemiah 12:5.
† **10:29 10:29** Hebrew *Nethinim*

with their wives and all their sons and
daughters who are able to understand,
30 hereby join with their noble brothers and
commit themselves with a sworn oath to follow
the Teaching of God given through his servant
Moses and to obey carefully all the
commandments, ordinances, and statutes of the
LORD our Lord.
31 We will not give our daughters in marriage
to the people of the land, and we will not take
their daughters for our sons.
32 When the people of the land bring
merchandise or any kind of grain to sell on the
Sabbath day, we will not buy from them on a
Sabbath or holy day. Every seventh year we will
let the fields lie fallow and will cancel every
debt.
33 We also place ourselves under the
obligation to contribute a third of a shekel‡
yearly for the service of the house of our God:
34 for the showbread, for the regular grain
offerings and burnt offerings, for the Sabbath
offerings, for the New Moons and appointed
feasts, for the holy offerings, for the purification
offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for
all the duties of the house of our God.
35 We have cast lots among the priests, Levites,
and people for the donation of wood by our
families at the appointed times each year. They
are to bring it to the house of our God to burn on

‡ **10:33 10:33** *A third of a shekel* is approximately 0.13 ounces or 3.8 grams, probably of silver.

the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the Teaching.

36 We will also bring the firstfruits of our land
and of every fruit tree to the house of the LORD
year by year.
37 And we will bring the firstborn of our sons
and our livestock, as it is written in the
Teaching, and will bring the firstborn of our
herds and flocks to the house of our God, to the
priests who minister in the house of our God.
38 Moreover, we will bring to the priests at the
storerooms of the house of our God the
firstfruits of our dough, of our grain offerings, of
the fruit of all our trees, and of our new wine
and oil. A tenth of our produce belongs to the
Levites, so that they shall receive tithes in all the
towns where we labor.
39 A priest of Aaron's line is to accompany the
Levites when they collect the tenth, and the
Levites are to bring a tenth of these tithes to the
storerooms of the treasury in the house of our
God.
40 For the Israelites and the Levites are to
bring the contributions of grain, new wine, and
oil to the storerooms where the articles of the
sanctuary are kept and where the ministering
priests, the gatekeepers, and the singers stay.
Thus we will not neglect the house of our God."

11

1 Now the leaders of the people settled in
Jerusalem, and the rest of the people cast lots to
bring one out of ten to live in the holy city of

Jerusalem, while the remaining nine* were to
dwell in their own towns.
2 And the people blessed all the men who
volunteered to live in Jerusalem.

3 These are the heads of the provinces who
settled in Jerusalem. (In the villages of Judah,
however, each lived on his own property in their
towns—the Israelites, priests, Levites, temple
servants,† and descendants of Solomon's
servants—
4 while some of the descendants of Judah and
Benjamin settled in Jerusalem.)

From the descendants of Judah:

Athaiah son of Uzziah, the son of Zechariah,
the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the
son of Mahalalel, a descendant of Perez;
5 and Maaseiah son of Baruch, the son of
Col-hozeh, the son of Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah,
the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, a
descendant of the Shilonite.‡
6 The descendants of Perez who settled in
Jerusalem totaled 468 men of valor.

7 From the descendants of Benjamin:

Sallu son of Meshullam, the son of Joed, the
son of Pedaiah, the son of Kolaiah, the son of
Maaseiah, the son of Ithiel, the son of Jeshaiah;
8 and his followers Gabbai and Sallai—928
men.

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* **11:1 11:1** Hebrew *nine hands* † **11:3 11:3** Hebrew *Nethinim*; also in verse 21 ‡ **11:5 11:5** Or *of Shelah*

9 Joel son of Zichri was the officer over them,
and Judah son of Hassenuah was second in
command of the city.§
10 From the priests:

Jedaiah son of Joiarib;* Jachin;
11 Seraiah son of Hilkiah, the son of
Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of
Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, the chief official of
the house of God;
12 and their associates who did the work at the
temple—822 men;
Adaiah son of Jeroham, the son of Pelaliah, the
son of Amzi, the son of Zechariah, the son of
Pashhur, the son of Malchijah;
13 and his associates, the leaders of
families—242 men;
Amashai son of Azarel, the son of Ahzai, the
son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer;
14 and their associates†—128 mighty men of
valor. Zabdiel son of Haggedolim was their
overseer.
15 From the Levites:
Shemaiah son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam,
the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni;
16 Shabbethai and Jozabad, two leaders of the
Levites, who supervised the work outside the
house of God;
17 Mattaniah son of Mica, the son of Zabdi, the
son of Asaph, who led in thanksgiving and

§ **11:9 11:9** Or *was over the Second District of the city*, or *the Second Quarter*, a newer section of Jerusalem * **11:10 11:10** Or *Jedaiah; the son of Joiarib;* † **11:14 11:14** Most LXX manuscripts *his associates*

prayer; Bakbukiah, second among his associates;
and Abda son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the
son of Jeduthun.
18 The Levites in the holy city totaled 284.
19 And the gatekeepers:
Akkub, Talmon, and their associates, who kept
watch at the gates—172 men.
20 The rest of the Israelites, with the priests
and Levites, were in all the villages of Judah,
each on his own inheritance.
21 The temple servants lived on the hill of
Ophel, with Ziha and Gishpa over them.
22 Now the overseer of the Levites in
Jerusalem was Uzzi son of Bani, the son of
Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of
Mica.‡ He was one of Asaph's descendants, who
were the singers in charge of the service of the
house of God.
23 For there was a command from the king
concerning the singers, an ordinance regulating
their daily activities.
24 Pethahiah son of Meshezabel, a descendant
of Zerah son of Judah, was the king's agent§ in
every matter concerning the people.
25 As for the villages with their fields, some of
the people of Judah lived in Kiriath-arba, Dibon,
Jekabzeel, and their villages;
26 in Jeshua, Moladah, and Beth-pelet;
27 in Hazar-shual; in Beersheba and its
villages;
28 in Ziklag; in Meconah and its villages;

‡ **11:22 11:22** *Mica* is a variant of *Micaiah*; see Nehemiah 12:35.
§ **11:24 11:24** Hebrew *hand*

29 in En-rimmon, Zorah, Jarmuth,
30 Zanoah, Adullam, and their villages; in
Lachish and its fields; and in Azekah and its
villages. So they settled from Beersheba all the
way to the Valley of Hinnom.

31 The descendants of Benjamin from Geba
lived in Michmash, Aija, and Bethel with its
villages;
32 in Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah,
33 Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim,
34 Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat,
35 Lod, and Ono; and in the Valley of the
Craftsmen.*
36 And some divisions of the Levites of Judah
settled in Benjamin.

12

1 Now these are the priests and Levites who
went up with Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and
with Jeshua:

Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra,
2 Amariah, Malluch,* Hattush,
3 Shecaniah, Rehum,† Meremoth,
4 Iddo, Ginnethoi,‡ Abijah,

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* **11:35 11:35** Hebrew *in Ge-harashim* * **12:2 12:2** *Malluch* is a variant of *Malluchi*; see verse 14. † **12:3 12:3** *Rehum* is a variant of *Harim*; see verse 15, Nehemiah 7:42, and Ezra 2:39. ‡ **12:4 12:4** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts and Vulgate (see also verse 16) *Ginnethon*

5 Mijamin,§ Maadiah,* Bilgah,†
6 Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah,
7 Sallu, Amok, Hilkiah, and Jedaiah.

These were the leaders of the priests and their
associates in the days of Jeshua.
8 The Levites were Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel,
Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, who, with his
associates, led the songs of thanksgiving.
9 Bakbukiah and Unni,‡ their associates, stood
across from them in the services.

10 Jeshua was the father of Joiakim,
Joiakim was the father of Eliashib,
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, these were the heads
of the priestly families:

of the family of Seraiah, Meraiah;
of Jeremiah, Hananiah;
13 of Ezra, Meshullam;
of Amariah, Jehohanan;
14 of Melicu,* Jonathan;

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§ **12:5 12:5** *Mijamin* is a variant of *Miniamin*; see verse 17. * **12:5 12:5** *Maadiah* is a variant of *Moadiah*; see verse 17. † **12:5 12:5** *Bilgah* is a variant of *Bilgai*; also in verse 18; see Nehemiah 10:9. ‡ **12:9 12:9** Qere; Ketiv *Unno* § **12:11 12:11** *Jonathan* is a variant of *Johanan*; see verse 22. * **12:14 12:14** Qere; Ketiv *Malluchi*, a variant of *Malluch*; see verse 2

of Shebaniah,† Joseph;
15 of Harim, Adna;
of Meraioth,‡ Helkai;
16 of Iddo, Zechariah;
of Ginnethon, Meshullam;
17 of Abijah, Zichri;
of Miniamin and of Moadiah,§ Piltai;
18 of Bilgah, Shammua;
of Shemaiah, Jonathan;
19 of Joiarib, Mattenai;
of Jedaiah, Uzzi;
20 of Sallai,* Kallai;
of Amok, Eber;
21 of Hilkiah, Hashabiah;
and of Jedaiah, Nethanel.
22 In the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan,†
and Jaddua, during the reign of Darius the
Persian, the heads of the families of the Levites
and priests were recorded.
23 As for the descendants of Levi, the family
heads up to the days of Johanan son of Eliashib
were recorded in the Book of the Chronicles.‡
24 The leaders of the Levites were Hashabiah,
Sherebiah, and Jeshua son of Kadmiel,§ along

† **12:14 12:14** *Shebaniah* is a variant of *Shecaniah*; see verse 3; see also Syriac and some Hebrew and LXX manuscripts. ‡ **12:15 12:15** *Meraioth* is a variant of *Meremoth*; see verse 3 and also some LXX manuscripts. § **12:17 12:17** *Moadiah* is a variant of *Maadiah*; see verse 5. * **12:20 12:20** *Sallai* is a variant of *Sallu*; see verse 7. † **12:22 12:22** *Johanan* is a variant of *Jonathan*; see verse 11. ‡ **12:23 12:23** Or *the Book of the Annals* or *the Book of the Historical Events* § **12:24 12:24** By emendation (compare verse 8) *Sherebiah, Jeshua, Binnui, and Kadmiel*

with their associates, who stood across from
them to give praise and thanksgiving as one
section alternated with the other, as prescribed
by David the man of God.

25 Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam,
Talmon, and Akkub were gatekeepers who
guarded the storerooms at the gates.
26 They served in the days of Joiakim son of
Jeshua, the son of Jozadak,* and in the days of
Nehemiah the governor and Ezra the priest and
scribe.
27 At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem,
the Levites were sought out from all their homes
and brought to Jerusalem to celebrate the joyous
dedication with thanksgiving and singing,
accompanied by cymbals, harps, and lyres.
28 The singers were also assembled from the
region around Jerusalem, from the villages of
the Netophathites,
29 from Beth-gilgal, and from the fields of Geba
and Azmaveth, for they had built villages for
themselves around Jerusalem.
30 After the priests and Levites had purified
themselves, they purified the people, the gates,
and the wall.
31 Then I brought the leaders of Judah up on
the wall, and I appointed two great thanksgiving
choirs. One was to proceed along the top of the
wall† to the right, toward the Dung Gate.

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* **12:26 12:26** *Jozadak* is a variant of *Jehozadak*; see 1 Chronicles 5:40. † **12:31 12:31** Or *alongside the wall*; also in verse 38

32 Hoshaiah and half the leaders of Judah
followed,
33 along with Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam,
34 Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah,
35 and some of the priests with trumpets, and
also Zechariah son of Jonathan, the son of
Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of
Micaiah,‡ the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph,
36 and his associates—Shemaiah, Azarel,
Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and
Hanani—with the musical instruments
prescribed by David the man of God. Ezra the
scribe led the procession.
37 At the Fountain Gate they went directly up
the steps of the City of David on the ascent to the
wall and passed above the house of David to the
Water Gate on the east.
38 The second thanksgiving choir proceeded in
the opposite direction,§ and I followed it with
half the people along the top of the wall, past the
Tower of the Ovens to the Broad Wall,
39 over the Gate of Ephraim, the Jeshanah
Gate,* 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.
40 The two thanksgiving choirs then stood in
the house of God, as did I, along with the half of
the officials accompanying me,
41 as well as the priests with their
trumpets—Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin,

‡ **12:35 12:35** *Micaiah* is a variant of *Mica*; see Nehemiah 11:22.
§ **12:38 12:38** Or, by emendation, *proceeded to the left* * **12:39 12:39** Or *the Old City Gate*

Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah—
42 and also Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi,
Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. Then the
choirs sang out under the direction of Jezrahiah.

43 On that day they offered great sacrifices,
rejoicing because God had given them great joy.
The women and children also rejoiced, so that
the joy of Jerusalem was heard from afar.

44 And on that same day men were appointed
over the rooms that housed the supplies,
contributions, firstfruits, and tithes. The
portions specified by the Teaching for the priests
and Levites were gathered into these
storerooms from the fields of the villages,
because Judah rejoiced over the priests and
Levites who were serving.

45 They performed the service of their God
and the service of purification, along with the
singers and gatekeepers, as David and his son
Solomon had prescribed.
46 For long ago, in the days of David and
Asaph, there were directors† for the singers and
for the songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.

47 So in the days of Zerubbabel and Nehemiah,
all Israel contributed the daily portions for the
singers and gatekeepers. They also set aside
daily portions for the Levites, and the Levites set
aside daily portions for the descendants of
Aaron.

† **12:46 12:46** Qere; Ketiv *there was a director*

13

1 At that time the Book of Moses was read
aloud in the hearing of the people, and in it they
found the passage stating that no Ammonite or
Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God,*
2 because they had not met the Israelites with
food and water, but had hired Balaam to call
down a curse against them (although our God
had turned the curse into a blessing).
3 As soon as the people heard this law, they
excluded from Israel all of foreign descent.
4 Now before this, Eliashib the priest, a
relative of Tobiah, had been put in charge of the
storerooms of the house of our God
5 and had prepared for Tobiah a large room
where they had previously stored the grain
offerings, the frankincense, the temple articles,
and the tithes of grain, new wine, and oil
prescribed for the Levites, singers, and
gatekeepers, along with the contributions for the
priests.
6 While all this was happening, I was not in
Jerusalem, because I had returned to Artaxerxes
king of Babylon† in the thirty-second year of his
reign. Some time later I obtained leave from the
king
7 to return to Jerusalem. Then I discovered the
evil that Eliashib had done on behalf of Tobiah
by providing him a room in the courts of the
house of God.

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* **13:1 13:1** See Deuteronomy 23:4–7. † **13:6 13:6** Artaxerxes king of Persia is identified here as the king of Babylon because Persia had conquered the Babylonian Empire.

8 And I was greatly displeased and threw all of
Tobiah's household goods out of the room.
9 Then I ordered that the rooms be purified,
and I had the articles of the house of God
restored to them, along with the grain offerings
and frankincense.
10 I also learned that because the portions for
the Levites had not been given to them, all the
Levites and singers responsible for performing
the service had gone back to their own fields.
11 So I rebuked the officials and asked, "Why
has the house of God been neglected?"
Then I gathered the Levites and singers
together and stationed them at their posts,
12 and all Judah brought a tenth of the grain,
new wine, and oil into the storerooms.
13 I appointed as treasurers over the
storerooms Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the
scribe, and Pedaiah of the Levites, with Hanan
son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah, to assist
them, because they were considered
trustworthy. They were responsible for
distributing the supplies to their fellow Levites.
14 Remember me for this, O my God, and do
not blot out my deeds of loving devotion for the
house of my God and for its services.
15 In those days I saw people in Judah treading
winepresses on the Sabbath and bringing in
grain and loading it on donkeys, along with
wine, grapes, and figs. All kinds of goods were
being brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath
day. So I warned them against selling food on
that day.

16 Additionally, men of Tyre who lived there
were importing fish and all kinds of
merchandise and selling them on the Sabbath to
the people of Judah, and in Jerusalem.
17 Then I rebuked the nobles of Judah and
asked, “What is this evil you are
doing—profaning the Sabbath day?
18 Did not your forefathers do the same things,
so that our God brought all this disaster on us
and on this city? And now you are rekindling his
wrath against Israel by profaning the Sabbath!”
19 When the evening shadows began to fall on
the gates of Jerusalem, just before the Sabbath, I
ordered that the gates be shut and not opened
until after the Sabbath. I posted some of my
servants at the gates so that no load could enter
on the Sabbath day.
20 Once or twice, the merchants and those who
sell all kinds of goods camped outside Jerusalem,
21 but I warned them, “Why are you camping
in front of the wall? If you do it again, I will lay
hands on you.” From that time on, they did not
return on the Sabbath.
22 Then I instructed the Levites to purify
themselves and guard the gates in order to keep
the Sabbath day holy.

Remember me for this as well, O my God, and
show me mercy according to your abundant
loving devotion.

23 In those days I also saw Jews who had
married women from Ashdod, Ammon, and
Moab.

24 Half of their children spoke the language of
Ashdod or of the other peoples, but could not
speak the language of Judah.
25 I rebuked them and called down curses on
them. I beat some of these men and pulled out
their hair.
Then I made them take an oath before God
and said, “You must not give your daughters in
marriage to their sons or take their daughters as
wives for your sons or for yourselves!
26 Did not King Solomon of Israel sin in
matters like this? There was not a king like him
among many nations, and he was loved by his
God, who made him king over all Israel—yet
foreign women drew him into sin.
27 Must we now hear that you too are doing all
this terrible evil and acting unfaithfully against
our God by marrying foreign women?”
28 Even one of the sons of Joiada son of
Eliashib the high priest had become a son-in-law
to Sanballat the Horonite. Therefore I drove him
away from me.
29 Remember them, O my God, because they
have defiled the priesthood and the covenant of
the priesthood and of the Levites.
30 Thus I purified the priests and Levites from
everything foreign, and I assigned specific duties
to each of the priests and Levites.
31 I also arranged for contributions of wood at
the appointed times, and for the firstfruits.
Remember me, O my God, with favor.

Masoretic English Tanakh

The Tanakh (Law, Prophets, and Writings) of the Holy Bible in English, conformed to the Masoretic Text.

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2026-11-06

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 6 Nov 2026 from source files dated 6 Nov 2026
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