

Restoring Stewardship Chapter 7

**So What's Next?**

We might think that when the wall was completed that the work would be done.

However, as we will see in the next seven chapters of Nehemiah—the real work is just starting.

Introduction: Building the wall caused the people to come together and the completed wall symbolized the hand of God was with

them. But God is not as interested in buildings and walls as He is in hearts! The real goal was to renew the heart-covenant relationship with God. Nehemiah now moves from building the wall to building the people and we learn the importance of three areas of stewardship for our lives and church.

A. Stewardship of leadership Neh 7:1-2

More important than length of life is how we spend each day.

MARIA A. FURTADO

1. We need leaders who are holy! “When the wall was built and I had hung the doors, when the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed...” 7:1 and Numbers 3:5-10; 8:5-14
2. We need leaders who are faithful and fear God. “...for he was a faithful man and feared God more than many.” :7:2

B. Stewardship of our service Neh 7:3-65

The world asks, “How much does he give?” Christ asks,

“Why does he give?” JOHN RALEIGH MOTT (1865–1955)

1. Serve where God has you right now “And another in front of his own house.” 7:3
2. Serve where God puts a need on your heart “Then my God put it into my heart...” 7:5
3. Serve in purity “Therefore they were excluded from the priesthood as defiled.” 7:64

C. Stewardship of resources Neh 7:66-73

It is not what we take up, but what we give up that makes us rich.

HENRY WARD BEECHER (1813–1887)

“The governor gave to the treasury one thousand gold drachmas...Some of the heads of the fathers' houses gave to the treasury of the work twenty thousand gold drachmas...And that which the rest of the people gave was twenty thousand gold drachmas...” Neh 7:70-72

1. Give generously to God's work 2 Cor 9:1-7
2. Give generously from what God has given you. “Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.” Deut 16:17

Nehemiah 7:1-6

:1 Then it was, when the wall was built and I had hung the doors, when the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed,

:2 that I gave the charge of Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the leader of the citadel, for he was a faithful man and feared God more than many.

:3 And I said to them, “Do not let the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot; and while they stand *guard*, let them shut and bar the doors; and appoint guards from among the inhabitants of Jerusalem, one at his watch station and another in front of his own house.”

:4 Now the city *was* large and spacious, but the people in it *were* few, and the houses *were* not rebuilt.

:5 Then my God put it into my heart to gather the nobles, the rulers, and the people, that they might be registered by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of those who had come up in the first *return*, and found written in it:

:6 These *are* the people of the province who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his city.

Urim and Thummin 7:65 These were two stones (their names mean "light" and "perfection") which the high priest wore on his garment by which he could find the mind of God. Nehemiah says these suspect priests are not allowed to minister "until a high priest arrives who has the Urim and Thummim." Some see a hidden reference to the Messiah in this. In the book of Hebrews Jesus is said to be "a priest after the order of Melchizedek" (*Hebrews* 6:6 *KJV*), i.e. one who lives forever and who fully knows the mind of God.