

Restoration and Renewal—The Book of Nehemiah

Restoring Thankfulness *Chapters 11-12*



Do You Have A Willing Heart?

*“Your people shall be volunteers
In the day of Your power;
In the beauties of holiness,
from the womb of the morning,
You have the dew of Your youth.”
Psalm 110:3*

Introduction: Now that the walls were completed and the people had dedicated themselves to God—it was time to repopulate the city of Jerusalem—but who would answer the call?

A. A Dedicated People *Nehemiah 11-12:26*

In worship we meet the power of God and stand in its strengthening.
Nels F. S. Ferré (1769–1821)

1. People willing to volunteer for God’s work *11:1-18* “*And the people commended everyone who volunteered to resettle in Jerusalem.*” *11:2 NLT*
2. People who are willing leaders *11:19-24; 12:1-9* The priests, Levites, temple servants, singers for the service of the house of God and song leaders.
3. People who are willing to serve *12:25* “*...were the gatekeepers in charge of the storerooms at the gates...*”
4. People who are willing to pray *11:17* “*Also Mattaniah son of Mica, son of Zabdi, a descendant of Asaph, who led in thanksgiving and prayer.*”

B. A Dedicated Wall *Nehemiah 12:27-47*

1. Dedicated in purity *12:30, 45* “*Both the singers and the gatekeepers kept the charge of their God and the charge of the purification, according to the command of David and Solomon his son.*” *:45*
2. Dedicated in gladness and prayer for what God has done *12:27, 46* “*For in the days of David and Asaph of old there were chiefs of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.*” *:46*
3. Dedicated with worship choirs *12:31, 46* There were two choirs that went in opposite directions so that the entire wall circled—a Jericho-type dedication march.
4. Dedicated with praise and thanksgiving *12:43* “*Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and the children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off.*”

*“Therefore by Him let us **continually offer the sacrifice of praise** to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.
But do not forget **to do good and to share**, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”*

Hebrews 13:15-6

Nehemiah 11:1-3

:1 Now the leaders of the people dwelt at Jerusalem; the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to dwell in Jerusalem, the holy city, and nine-tenths were to dwell in other cities.

:2 And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem.

:3 These are the heads of the province who dwelt in Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 12:27-31

:27 Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and singing, with cymbals and stringed instruments and harps.

:28 And the sons of the singers gathered together from the countryside around Jerusalem, from the villages of the Netophathites,

:29 from the house of Gilgal, and from the fields of Geba and Azmaveth; for the singers had built themselves villages all around Jerusalem.

:30 Then the priests and Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, the gates, and the wall.

:31 So I brought the leaders of Judah up on the wall, and appointed two large thanksgiving choirs. One went to the right hand on the wall toward the Refuse Gate.