

16 August

TOPIC: Nehemiah Chapter 11



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to move or relocate to a new city?
2. What Old Testament method was used to repopulate Jerusalem? (**v.1 – casting lots**).
3. How did the people respond to the men who willingly offered themselves to dwell in the city? (**v.2 – people blessed them**).
4. According to Genesis 49:8 – 12, who was the father of Judah? (**Jacob, also known as Israel**).



Let's go deeper

5. According to Romans 11:1; which New Testament apostle was a descended from the tribe of Benjamin? (**The apostle Paul**).
6. True or false; all priests were to be Levites (descended from Levi, one of Jacob's 12 sons), according to the law? (**True; see Numbers 3**).
7. According to v.19; what was the gatekeeper's responsibility? (**to keep, guard and protect the city gates**).
8. According to Nehemiah 11:21 in the NIV translation; what is the Nethinim group also refer to? (**Temple servants**).



Let's apply this

9. **God has many ways for us to serve in His Kingdom:**
 - What are the talents and resources God gave blessed you with and how can you use them to serve God and His people?
 - This week ask a friend or a spiritual leader to help you identify your talents and gifts.

SUMMARY:

Read: Nehemiah 11:1 – 36; Genesis 49:8 – 12 and Romans 11:1.

- **The book of Nehemiah chapter 11:**

v.1; Those who live in Jerusalem. It wasn't enough to see the city walls rebuilt and the spiritual renewal of the people of Jerusalem; now they concerned themselves with getting more people into the city.

v.2; To live in Jerusalem, you had to re-order your view of material things. You had to give up land in your previous region and take up some new business in Jerusalem. You had to re-arrange your social priorities, leaving some friends and family behind in your old village. You had to have a mind to endure the problems in the city. You had to live knowing you were a target for the enemy.

v.3 – 6; The children of Judah. Jacob prophesies that Judah's brothers would praise him. Judah's name signifies praise and was given him by his mother. The strength and power of the tribe is also foretold and uses the imagery of both a lion and the lion's cub to portray the tribe of Judah. Judah was comparable to a young lion for his strength, courage, and vitality and to a mature lion in that the line of Judah contained those of national prominence and kingship, including David and Solomon.

v.7 – 9; Benjamin, as the youngest, receives his father's blessing last. Benjamin teach us that God doesn't see as men see, for God looks on the heart. God saw a warrior inside of Benjamin. Others saw him as the youngest son and his tribe as the smallest tribe. Secondly, the two Saul's who came from the tribe of Benjamin. King Saul, reminds us of the sin nature, and its war against God, and Saul / Paul whose nature was changed by God from a murderous Pharisee to the apostle of grace.

v.10 – 18; The priests and Levites. The Levites were the tribe of Israelites descended from Levi, one of the twelve sons of Jacob (Israel). The priests of Israel were a group of qualified men from within the tribe of the Levites who had responsibility over certain aspects of tabernacle or temple worship. All priests were to be Levites, according to the Law, but not all Levites were priests.

v.19; The gatekeepers. Gatekeepers were guards stationed for protection at various kinds of gates, which could be city gates, palace gates or temple gates. Ancient cities had high, thick walls around them to keep out wild beasts and invading armies. A gatekeeper had to be trustworthy and alert for any signs of trouble.

v.20 – 36; The Nethinim were a group of servants tasked with assisting the Levites in service of the temple and did the menial work required, such as wood-cutting and water-carrying. Most bible translations refer to this group as "temple servants."



Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message: