

A Renewed Remnant

Lesson 15

From Building Walls To Building A “Community” (Neh. 7-8)

Introduction

Nehemiah's *primary* task of erecting Jerusalem's walls had been completed (6:15). As governor (5:14), he now focused his attention on other necessary duties...namely, helping the remnant organize themselves into a legitimate “community of believers.” To assist him in this great endeavor, Nehemiah turned to Ezra, the man who led the remnant's 2nd return 13 years earlier and rebuilt the “spiritual infrastructure.”

- 1) After finishing the walls and gates, what else did Nehemiah do? (7:1b) What other “appointments” did he make and with what instructions? (7:2-3)

- 2) How does Nehemiah describe Jerusalem? (7:4)

- 3) What task did God put into the heart of Nehemiah? (7:5a) To assist him, what did Nehemiah use? (7:5b-69) How did it compare with the original record? (Ezra 2:1-70)

- 4) *Thought question:* why might Nehemiah have thought it necessary to take a census?

- 5) What “time marker” is given in 7:73b?

- 6) While Nehemiah was serving as governor (5:14), who else was still busy serving the remnant? (8:1) What noteworthy fact is recorded about the remnant in 8:1?

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- 7) What action is recorded in **8:2-4**? What happened in **8:5**? Remembering that Ezra had returned some 13 years earlier (**Ezra 7**), what might this “public reaction” say about the work he had done? (**Ezra 7:6a, 10, 25**)

- 8) What happened after Ezra read the Law? (**8:6-8**)

- 9) What words of encouragement did Nehemiah & Ezra give in **8:9-12**? Why would such an encouragement be necessary?

- 10) As the remnant was further taught, what obligation was emphasized? (**8:13-14**) What did they do? (**8:15-16**)

- 11) Be able to harmonize **8:17-18** with **Ezra 3:1-4**.