

This day is sacred to our Lord.

Do not grieve,

for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

Nehemiah 8:10b



Nehemiah 1:2-3



I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

"Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."

Nehemiah appointed:

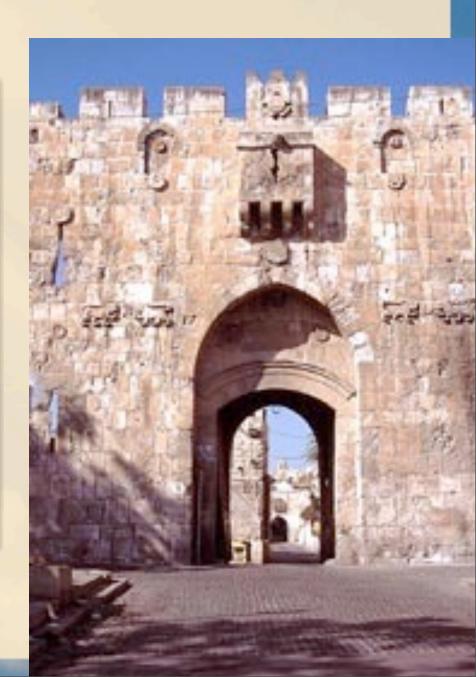
The gatekeepers
The singers
The Levites
Hanani and Hananiah

(Nehemiah 7:1-2)



Nehemiah 7:3

- 1. Gate opening instructions
- 2. Gate closing instructions
- 3. "Neighborhood Watch" program



"...my God put it into my heart to assemble the ... people for registration by families." Nehemiah 7:5

"I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem." Nehemiah 2:12



Three Returns from Exile

Jerusalem destroyed 586 BC

First Return Date

Led by

Accomplishment

Zerubbabel

538 BC

Rebuilt the Temple Second Return

458 BC

Ezra

Reformed the People Third Return

444 BC

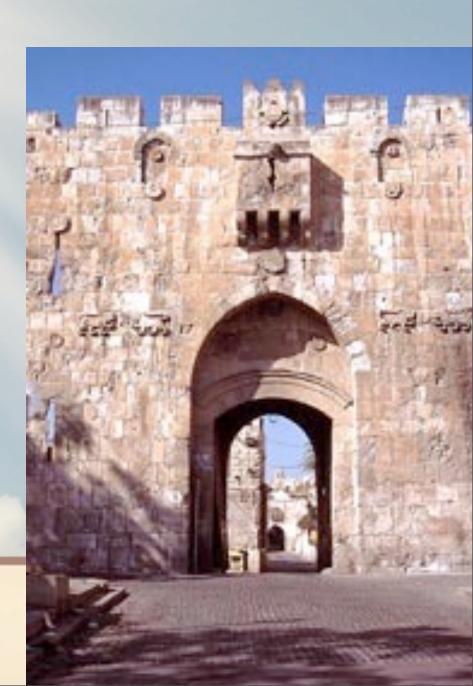
Nehemiah

Rebuilt the Wall

The Water Gate

"Water" represents the Word of God. (Eph 5:26)

All the people gathered there.



Nehemiah Chapter 8: Ezra Reads the Word of God

As he opened the book, the people all

Stood up
Lifted their hands
Said, "Amen! Amen!
Bowed down and
Worshiped

(Nehemiah 8:5-6)



Nehemiah Chapter 8: Ezra Reads the Word of God

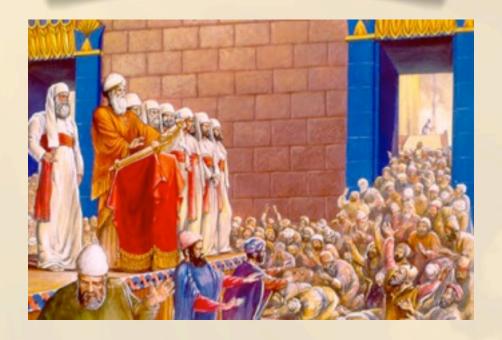
Understanding the Word

Rejoicing in the Word

Obeying the Word



Obstacle to understanding



The Language

Hebrew Aramaic

Understanding the Word

Matthew 11:28-30

"alle ye that traueilen & ben chargid come to me & I schal fulfille you. take ye my yok on you & lerne ye of me for I am mylde and meke in herte: and ye schulen finde rest to youre soulis/ for my yok is softe & my charge liyt."

~John Wycliffe, 1382 A.D.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

~NIV 1984 A.D.

Rejoice in the Word

"For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law."

Nehemiah 8:9





"This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!" Nehemiah 8:10b



"When I think upon my God, my heart is so full that the notes dance and leap from my pen!" ~Franz Josef Haydn (1732-1809)



"The whole company that had returned from exile built booths and lived in them. ...and their joy was very great."

Nehemiah 8:17

"From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another." John 1:16





"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your

Faith Fifty

Goodness Good

Knowledge Kids

Self-control Say

Perseverance Praise

Godliness

Brotherly kindness

Love"

Before

God

Lunch

(2 Peter 1:5-7)



Applying the Lesson in Your Life

Respond to God's blessings with joyful obedience!

Choose 1 of the "To Do's" in 2 Peter 1:5-7 to focus on this week.

Faith

Goodness

Knowledge

Self-control

Perseverance

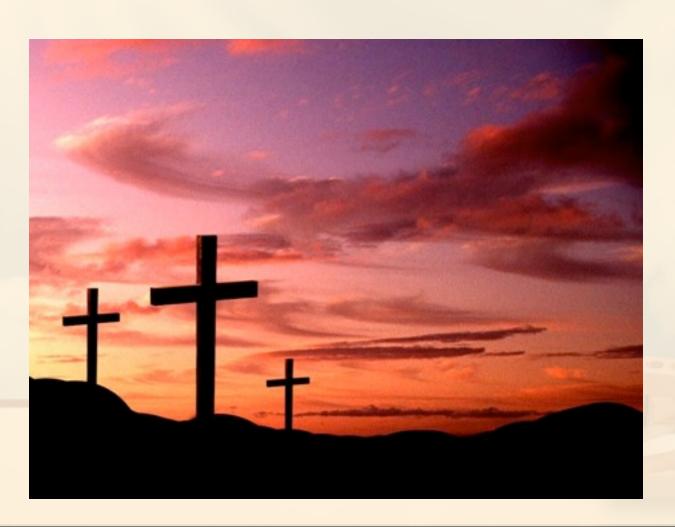
Godliness

Brotherly kindness

Love

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

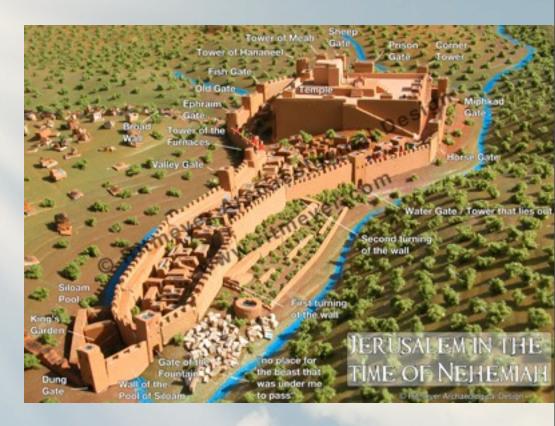
John 3:16





"So the wall was completed ... in fifty-two days.

When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God."



Nehemiah 6:15-16