Walking with the Captives

Week 9

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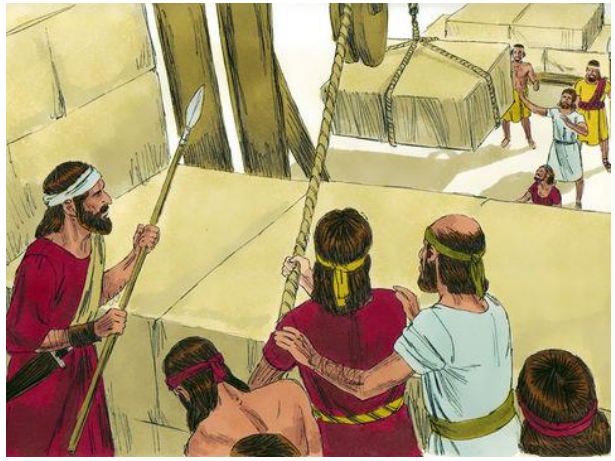
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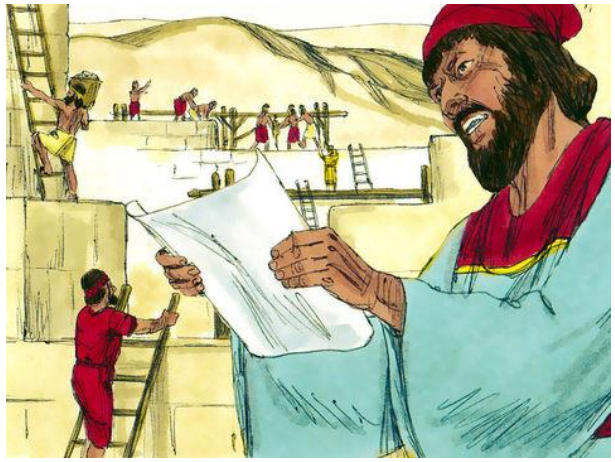
Old English words 15

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The Jews build and guard the wall



Sanballat sends letter to Nehemiah asking to meet in Ono

To read KJV in 21st Century English go to:

http://www.biblegateway.com/versions/21st-Century-King-James-Version-KJ21-Bible/

Sunday

Nehemiah prays, builds and guards

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 4v1-12

1. What did Sanballat do when he heard about the Jews building the wall? (v1)
2. What did he say to mock them? (v2)
3. Who heard him mock the Jews? (v2)
4. What did Tobiah say? (v3)
5. What did Nehemiah ask God to do to his enemies? (v4)
6. Why did he ask God NOT to blot out their sins? (v5)
7. Why were they able to get half the wall built? (v6)
8. Who were angry at the wall being built? (v7)

The Ashdodites were Philistines. Find Ashdod on a map

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9. What did they conspire to do? (v8)
10. What did Nehemiah and the Jews do? (v9)
11. What hindered the work? (v10)
12. What were their enemies going to do? (v11)
13. How many times did Jews warn Nehemiah of a plot? (v12)

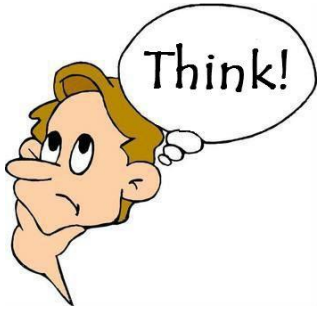
Some Jews who lived near their enemies heard them plot. So, they told Nehemiah 10 times of the danger. There was a real fear that their enemies would attack from all directions.



"Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings." (Isaiah 51v7)

Answers

1) He was angry and mocked the Jews; 2) What do these feeble Jews? Will they fortify themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they end it in a day? Will they revive stones out of heaps of rubbish? 3) His brethren and the army of Samaria; 4) Even a fox could break down their stone wall; 5) Turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity; 6) They had provoked God to anger; 7) The people had a mind to work; 8) Sanballat, Tobiah, Arabians, Ammonites and Ashdodites; 9) To fight against Jerusalem and hinder the work; 10) Prayed to God and set a watch against them day and night; 11) Workers were tired and there was much rubbish; 12) Kill them and stop the work; 13) 10 times



Satan always has people that will mock you for being a Christian. They will make little of your work for God. They may even try to attack you.

BUT don't let them stop you living for God. Make your prayer to God for help. And have the mindset to keep on doing God's will.

"for the people had a mind to work." (v6)

"Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them." (v9)





Stop and Think!

We are building every day by the things we do and say. Make sure you build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3v11). And that you build your life to please the Lord.

Monday

Nehemiah armed the workers

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 4v13-23

1. What did Nehemiah give the people? (v13)
2. What were they NOT to be? (v14)
3. Who were they to remember? (v14)
4. Who were they to fight for? (v14)
5. When did they return to the wall? (v15)
6. How did Nehemiah divide his servants? (v16)
7. What did every worker on the wall carry? (v17+18)
8. Where was the man with the trumpet? (v18)
9. What were the people to do when they heard the trumpet? (v19+20)
10. Who would fight for them? (v20)
11. How long did half of them guard with spears? (v21)
12. Why did Nehemiah want people to stay in Jerusalem? (v22)
13. Who were always ready to work and fight? (v23)
14. What was the only reason they took off clothes? (v23)

"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD." (Isaiah 54v17)

Answers

1) Swords, spears and bows; 2) Afraid; 3) The Lord; 4) Their brethren, sons, daughters, wives and houses; 5) When God had brought their enemies counsel to nothing; 6) Half of them worked on wall and half guarded; 7) A weapon, a sword; 8) With Nehemiah; 9) Resort to the place they heard the sound of the trumpet; 10) The LORD; 11) From rising of sun until stars appeared; 12) To guard at night and work by day; 13) Nehemiah, his brethren, his servants and the men of the guard; 14) For washing

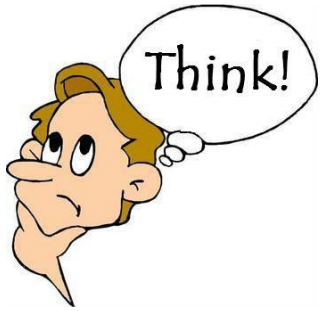
MEANINGS:

Habergeon = sleeveless coat of armour;

Bare burdens = carried loads;

Resort = gather together to a place;

Saving = except



Christians are in a spiritual battle against the devil. Sometimes it is hard. Sometimes we are afraid.

BUT remember the LORD. He will fight for you. He holds all power to defeat the devil.

"Be not ye afraid of them: remember the LORD." (v14)

"our God shall fight for us." (v20)

Tuesday

Problem with debt

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 5v1-19

1. Why had some families mortgaged property? (v1-3)
2. Why had they borrowed money? (v4)
3. What could they not redeem their children from? (v5)
4. How did Nehemiah feel? (v6)
5. What did he rebuke the nobles and rulers for? (v7+8)
6. Why should they walk in the fear of God? (v9)
7. What were they to stop doing? (v10)
8. What were they to restore? (v11)
9. What did they promise? (v12+13)
10. Who did they praise? (v13)
11. How long had Nehemiah been governor? (v14)
12. What had he NOT eaten? (v14)

Nehemiah was the governor. He could have taken money from the people. But he chose not to. He fed 150 people too!

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13. Why? (v15+18)
14. How did Nehemiah want God to think of him? (v19)

Answers

1) To buy corn to eat and live; 2) To pay taxes to the king; 3) Bondage; 4) Very angry; 5) Charging interest and selling their people to be slaves; 6) Because of the reproach of their enemies; 7) Charging interest; 8) Lands, vineyards, olive yards, houses and a hundredth part of the money, corn, wine and oil they charged them; 9) Restore these and require nothing from them; 10) The LORD; 11) For 12 years; 12) The bread (food) of a governor; 13) Because of the fear of God and because the bondage was heavy upon the people; 14) For good

MEANINGS:

Mortgaged = borrowed money to buy property;

Dearth = shortage of food, famine;

Tribute = taxes;

Bondage = slavery;

Redeem = buy back;

Consulted with myself = considered what to do;

Reproach = scorn, shame;

Exact usury = charge interest;

Held their peace = kept quiet



Stop and Think!

Nehemiah was angry BUT he took time to think carefully before he dealt with the problem.

Whenever you get angry at people doing wrong things… STOP and THINK carefully before you do or say anything!



Money Problems

There was a great outcry among the Jews. The work stopped. They had been working hard on the wall…. BUT now there were big money problems. The people needed money for food and taxes.

1. *People had been working on the wall and not working in fields to provide food for their families.*
2. *There was a famine, so hard times.*
3. *Some Jews had mortgaged their lands and houses to buy food.*
4. *Some had borrowed money to pay their taxes to the king.*
5. *Some had sold their children to be slaves, so they could pay debts. They couldn't buy them back.*
6. *The money lenders had made lots of money from them.*
7. *The people were so poor they could not get out of debt… and they needed food.*

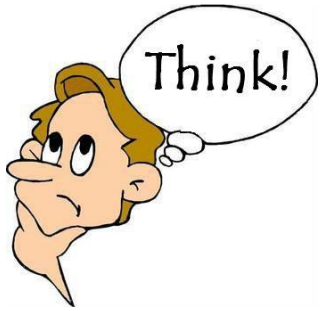
"For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land." (Deuteronomy 15v11)



Is it wrong to have a mortgage?

No! No! No! BUT you need to be able to pay it back.

However, in Old Testament times Jews were not to charge interest to their brothers or the poor. They could charge interest to other nations (Exodus 22v25; Deuteronomy 23v19+20).



Sometimes Christians fall out over money. It can hinder God's work. Be generous like Nehemiah. Love, help and encourage one another to keep going in God's work.

"Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." (Romans 13v8)

Wednesday

Nehemiah says 'O No' to Sanballat

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 6v1-14

1. Where did Sanballat and Geshem want to meet Nehemiah? (v2)
   Find it on a map
2. What were they going to do? (v2)
3. Why would Nehemiah NOT go? (v3)
4. How many times did they send for him to go? (v5)
5. What did Sanballat do the 5th time? (v5)
6. What did the letter say Nehemiah was planning? (v6)
7. What did it say Nehemiah wanted prophets to do? (v7)
8. What did Nehemiah reply? (v8)
9. How did this letter make the Jews feel? (v9)
10. What did Shemaiah want Nehemiah to do? (v10)
11. Why did Nehemiah refuse? (v11+12)
12. Who had hired Shemaiah? (v12)
13. Why was he hired? (v13)

They wanted to get Nehemiah to sin. Nehemiah knew that only priests and Levites were to go into the temple (Numbers 1v51; 16v7). Nehemiah was probably from the tribe of Judah. His fathers' sepulchres were in Judah (Nehemiah 2v3).

Answers

1) One of the villages in the plain of Ono; 2) harm; 3) The work would stop if he left it; 4) 5 times; 5) Sent a letter; 6) Nehemiah and Jews were planning to rebel and he would be there king; 7) To preach at Jerusalem that Nehemiah was king; 8) No such things are happening and you are making that up; 9) Afraid and weak for the work; 10) Meet in the temple and shut the doors; 11) He knew the Lord had not sent him; 12) Tobiah and Sanballat; 13) To make Nehemiah afraid, get him to sin and get an evil report on him and to reproach him

MEANINGS:

Mischief = harm;

Feignest = pretend, make up, imagine;

Counsel = talk together



Nehemiah was doing a great work. He was not going to be side-tracked by his enemies.

God's work is a great work. Don't let the enemy side-track you from it. Keep on doing your part in God's work.

"I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?" (Nehemiah 6v3)



Ways the enemies tried to stop the wall being built

1. *Mocked the Jews and their work (2v19+20; 4v1-3). Nehemiah prayed (4v4+5).*

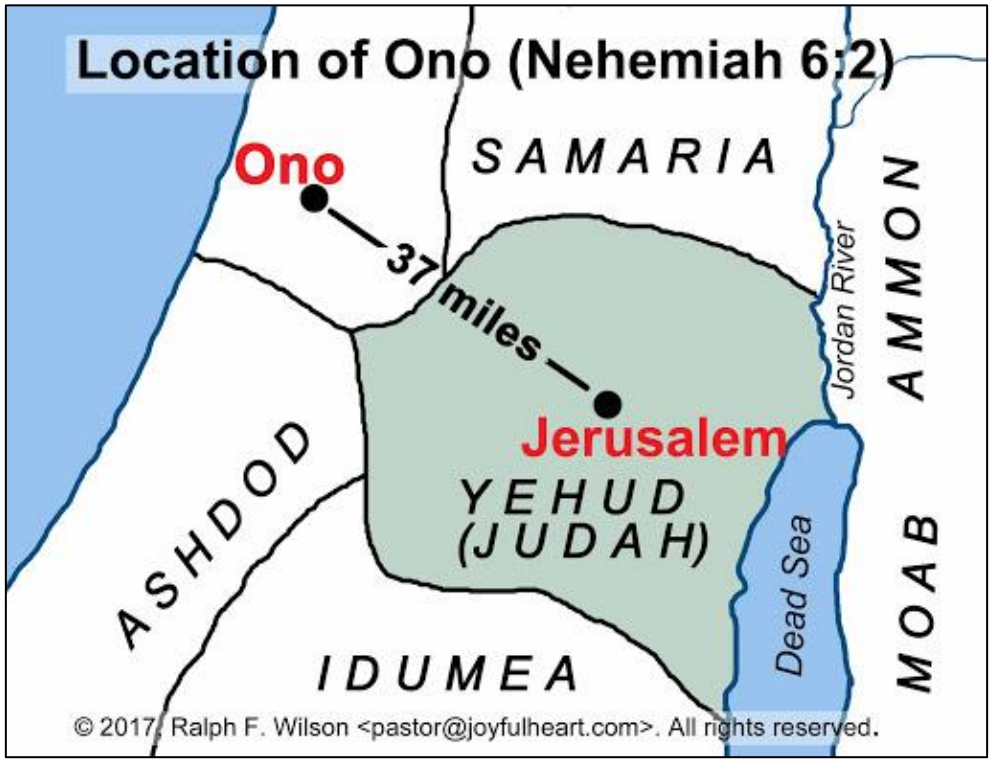
2. *Plotted to attack and fight the Jews as they worked on the wall (4v7-12). Nehemiah prayed (4v9) and armed the workers (4v13-18).*

3. *Tried to get Nehemiah to leave the work and do him harm (6v1-4). This was an attack on the leader of the work. Nehemiah kept working.*

4. *Falsely accused Nehemiah (6v5-9). Nehemiah told the truth and prayed (4v8+9).*

5. *Hired a man to get Nehemiah to go into temple and then speak wrongly about him (6v10-14). They thought fear of his life would make Nehemiah disobey God's law. God gave Nehemiah wisdom and he prayed (6v11-14).*

Enemies of God's work still use ways like these against God's people.



"I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass." (Isaiah 51v12)

Thursday

The wall is finished

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 6v15-19; 7v1-5

Nehemiah 7v6-23 gives the register of those who came from captivity with Zerubbabel.

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1. How long had it taken to rebuild the wall? (6v15)
2. How did the enemies and heathen feel? (v16)
3. Why? (v16)
4. Who sent letters to each other? (v17)
5. What did nobles of Judah report to Nehemiah? (v19)
6. Why did Tobiah send letters? (v19)
7. Who did Nehemiah appoint? (7v1)
8. Who were put in charge of Jerusalem? (v2)
9. Why? (v2)
10. What were Nehemiah's instructions about the gates of Jerusalem? (v3)
11. Why did Jerusalem need to be protected? (v4)
12. What did God put in Nehemiah's heart to do? (v5)

Answers

1) 52 days; 2) Cast down; 3) They saw the work was done by God; 4) Nobles of Judah and Tobiah; 5) Tobiah's good deeds; 6) To put Nehemiah in fear; 7) Porters, singers and Levites; 8) Hanani and Hananiah; 9) He was a faithful man and feared God above many; 10) Gates were not to be opened until sun was hot and they were to be shut at night and were to be guarded; 11) City was large, people were few and houses not built; 12) To gather nobles, rulers and people to be registered by genealogy i.e. a census

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26v41)

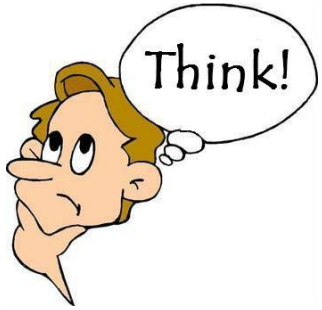
MEANINGS:

Cast down = unhappy, disheartened;

Sworn unto him = under oath;

Watches = guards;

Reckoned = registered



The LORD will use people who are faithful and fear God (v2). Are these qualities in your life?

Jerusalem had to be guarded (v3). God wants us to watch and guard against the devil and evil.

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." (1 Corinthians 16v13)

Friday

Ezra reads the law

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 8v1-12

1. Where did the people gather? (v1) *Find it on a map*
2. When? (v2)
3. What did they ask Ezra to read? (v1+2)

The law of Moses is the first 5 books of the Bible.

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4. How long did he read it? (v3)
5. Where did Ezra stand? (v4)
6. What did the people do when Ezra opened the book? (v5)
7. Who did Ezra bless? (v6)
8. What did the people do? (v6)
9. What was important for the people to be taught? (v7+8)
10. What did people do when they heard the law? (v9)
11. How did Nehemiah describe that day? (v9-11)
12. What were they NOT to be? (v9-11)
13. Why? (v10)
14. What were they to do? (v10+12)

Answers

1) Street near water gate; 2) On 1st day of 7th month; 3) The Book of the Law of Moses; 4) From morning to midday; 5) On a wooden pulpit; 6) All the people stood up; 7) The LORD; 8) Said Amen, lifted up their hands, bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD; 9) The meaning of the law; 10) Wept; 11) Holy; 12) Sorry, grieved; 13) For the joy of the LORD was their strength; 14) Eat, drink, send portions to those with nothing prepared, and make mirth

MEANINGS:

Pulpit = platform;

Attentive = listening carefully;

Distinctly = clearly;

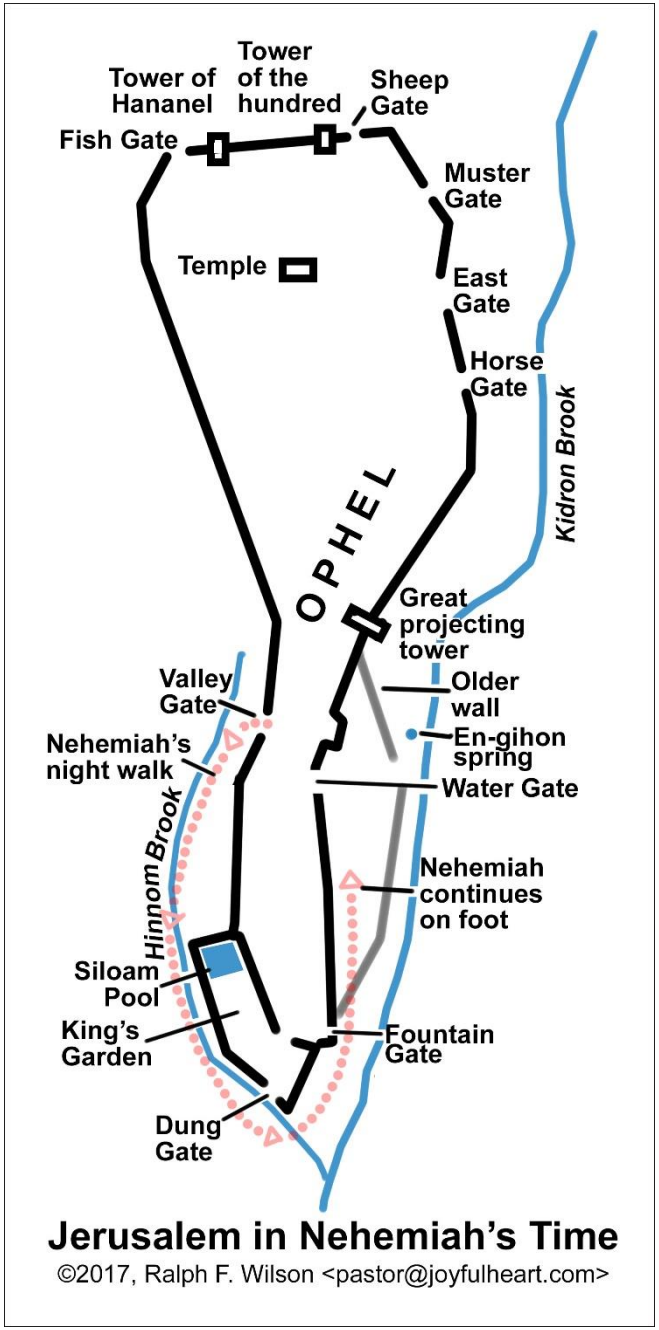
Gave the sense = explained the meaning;

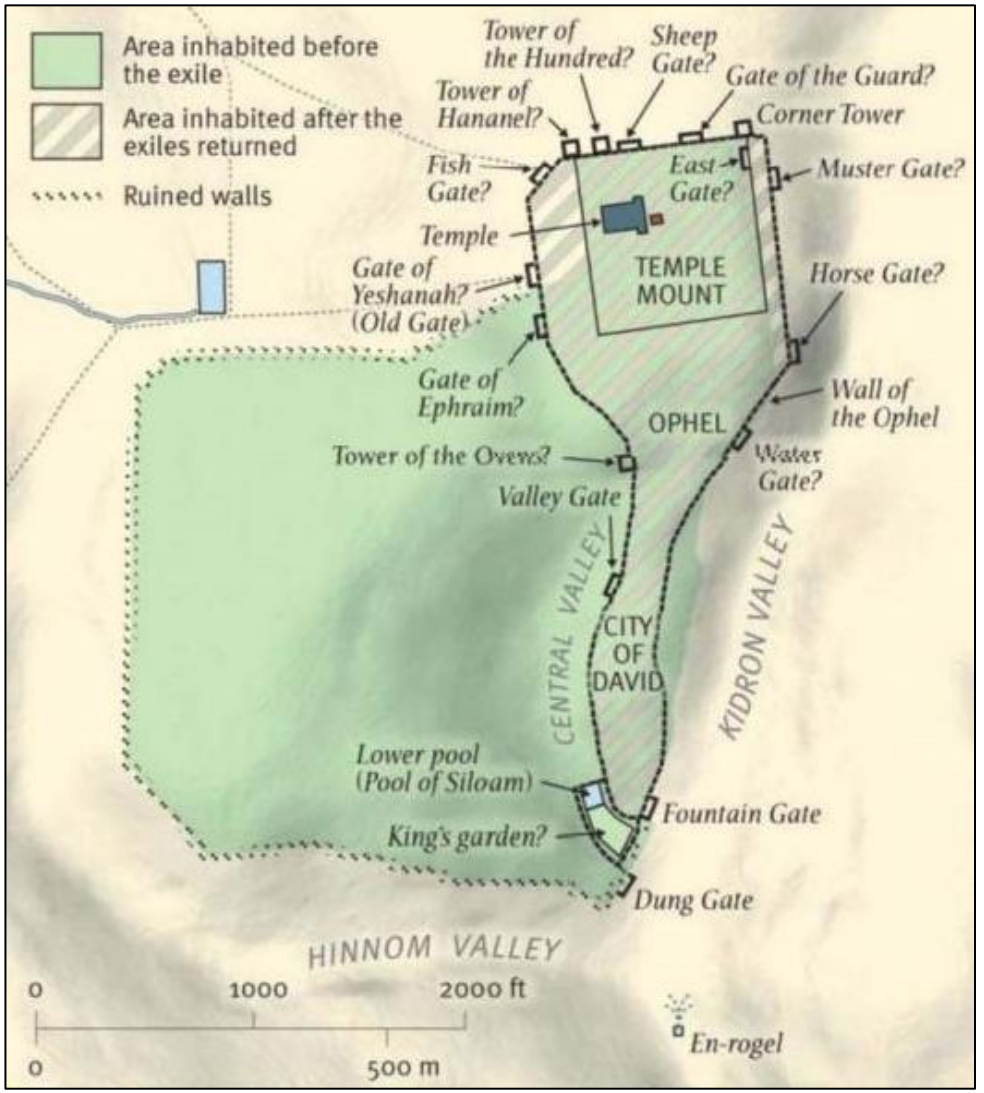
Mirth = gladness



It is very important that people understand God's Word. So, explain it carefully and simply so that even young children can understand it.

"For the joy of the LORD is your strength." (Nehemiah 8v10)


Tower of Hananel
Tower of the hundred
Sheep Gate
Fish Gate
Muster Gate
Temple
East Gate
Horse Gate
Kidron Brook
OPHEL
Great projecting tower
Valley Gate
Older wall
Nehemiah's night walk
En-gihon spring
Water Gate
Hinnom Brook
Nehemiah continues on foot
Siloam Pool
King's Garden
Fountain Gate
Dung Gate
Jerusalem in Nehemiah's Time
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Area inhabited before the exile
Area inhabited after the exiles returned
Ruined walls
Tower of the Hundred?
Sheep Gate?
Gate of the Guard?
Tower of Hananel?
Corner Tower
Fish Gate?
East Gate?
Muster Gate?
Temple
TEMPLE MOUNT
Gate of Yeshanah? (Old Gate)
Horse Gate?
Gate of Ephraim?
OPHEL
Wall of the Ophel
Tower of the Ovens?
Water Gate?
Valley Gate
CENTRAL VALLEY
KIDRON VALLEY
CITY OF DAVID
Lower pool (Pool of Siloam)
Fountain Gate
King's garden?
Dung Gate
HINNOM VALLEY
0
1000
2000 ft
0
500 m
En-rogel

Saturday

Feast of Tabernacles kept

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 8v13-18; 9v1-3

1. Who gathered on the 2nd day to understand God's law? (8v13)
2. What did they find written in the law? (v14)
3. Where were they to tell people about the feast? (v15) *See maps below*
4. What did the people make booths from? (v15+16)
5. Where did they make booths? (v16) *Find these gates on maps above*
6. Why? (v18)
7. Who kept this feast of booths? (v17)
8. How did they feel? (v17)
9. What was read during the 7 days of the feast? (v18)
10. What was on the 8th day? (v18)
11. What did the people do on the 24th day of that month? (9v1)
12. What did they confess? (v2)
13. What did they do for 3 hours? (v3)
14. What did they do for another 3 hours? (v3)

Answers

1) Chief fathers, of the people, priests and Levites; 2) They should live in booths in the 7th month; 3) In all their cities and Jerusalem; 4) Branches of olive, pine, myrtle, palm and thick trees; 5) On their house roofs, courts, temple courts and in streets of water gate and Ephraim gate; 6) To live in during the feast for 7 days; 7) All the people that came from captivity; 8) Had very great gladness; 9) Law of God; 10) Solemn assembly; 11) They assembled fasting in sackcloth; 12) Their own sins and the iniquities of their fathers; 13) Read the book of the law of the LORD; 14) Confessed and worshipped God

"Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them." (Psalm 84v5)

MEANINGS:

Booths = temporary shelters made from branches;

Solemn assembly = gathering for a holy day;

Strangers = foreigners, those who were not Jews;

Confessed = admitted;

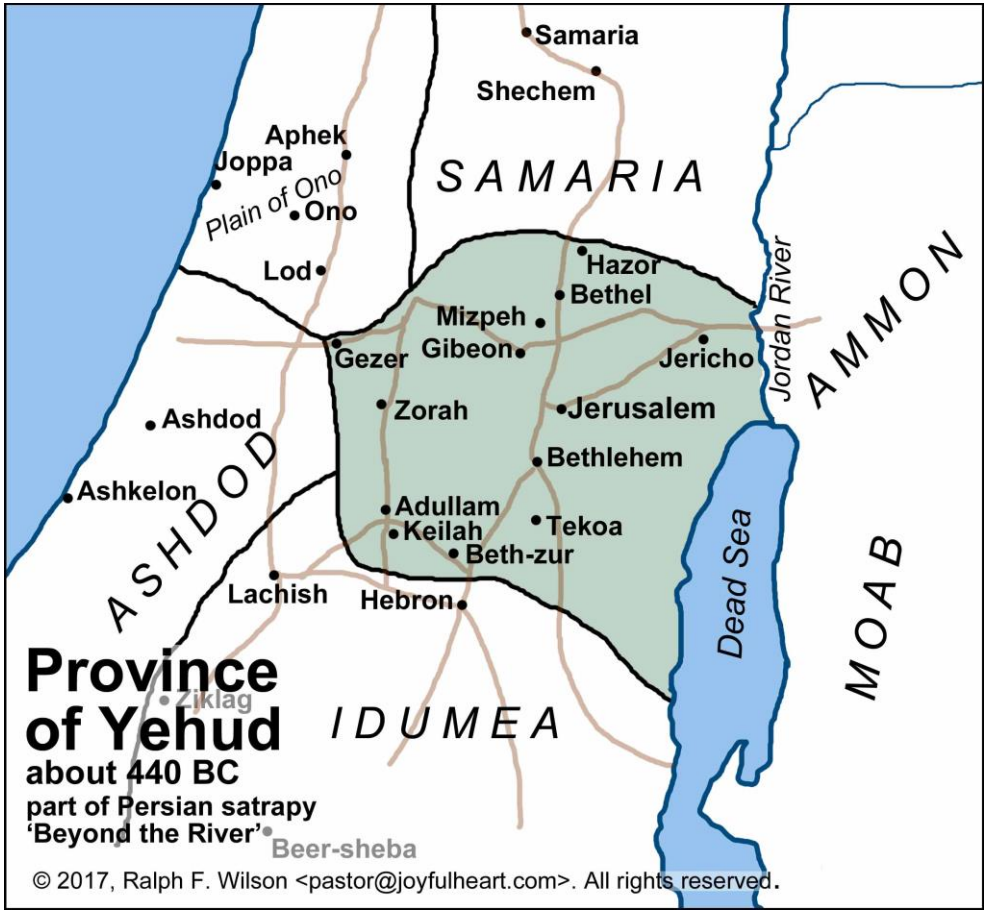
Iniquities = sins;

Fourth part of the day = 3 hours



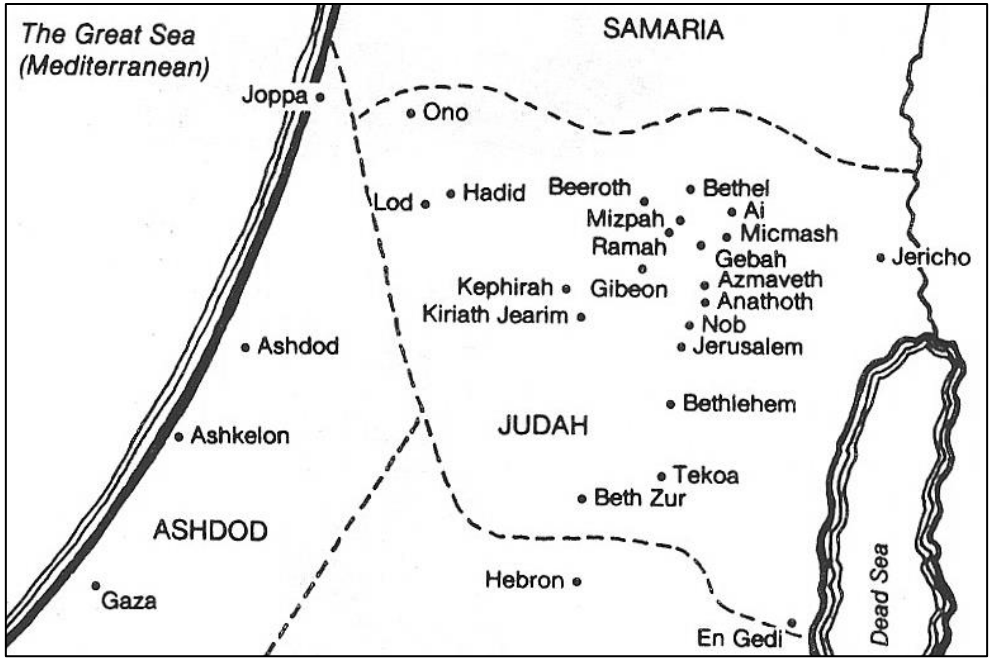
God's Word must take centre place in true worship. They had great joy as they obeyed God's Word. BUT they also had to repent of their sins. Make sure your worship is based on God's Word.

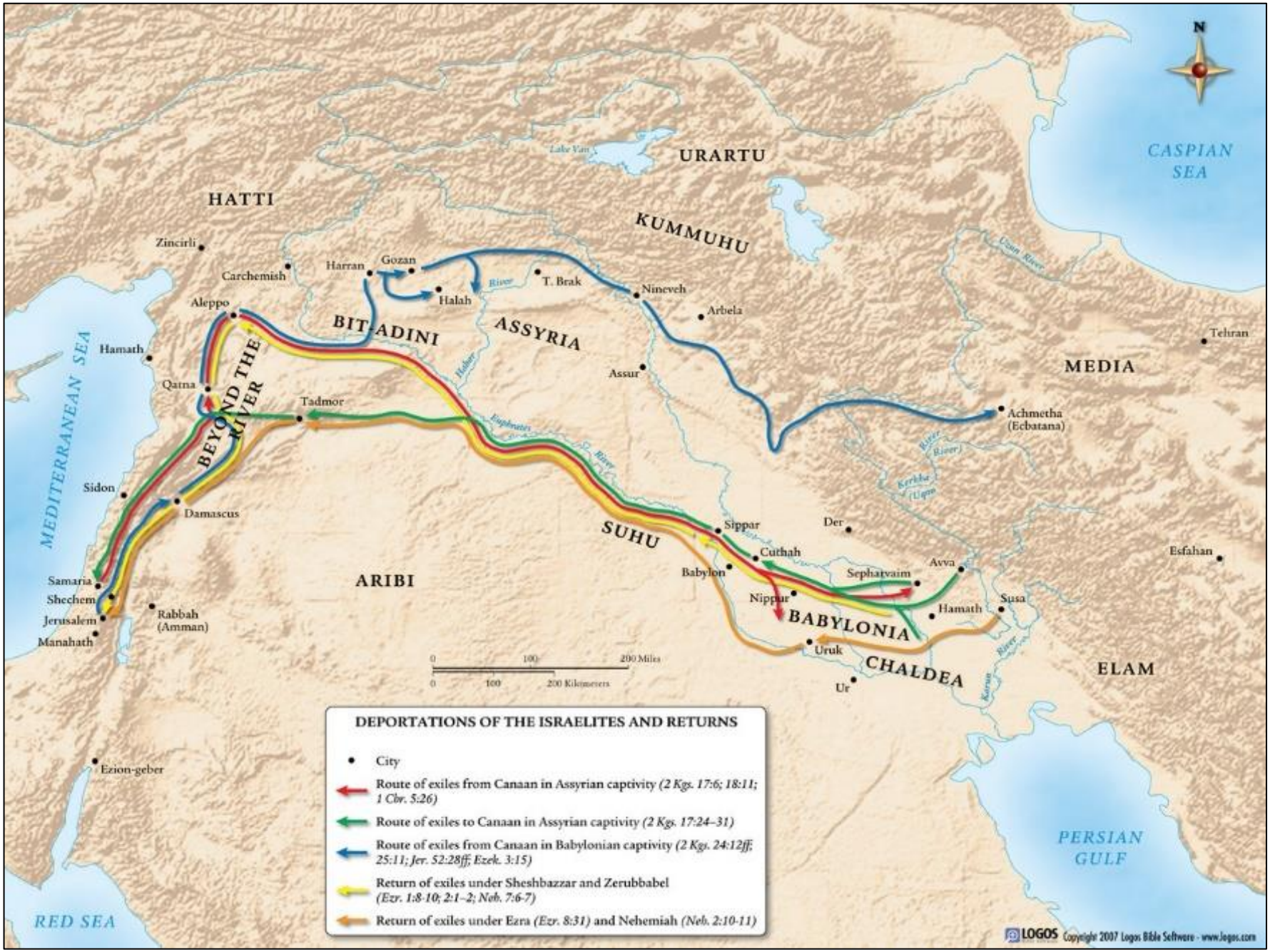
Map of Province of Judah



"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." (Psalm 16v11)

Map showing some towns in Judah




N
CASPIAN SEA
URARTU
HATTI
KUMMUHU
Zincirli
Carchemish
Harran
Gozan
Halah
T. Brak
Nineveh
Arbela
Aleppo
BIT-ADINI
ASSYRIA
Assur
Tehran
MEDIA
Hamath
Qatna
BEYOND THE RIVER
Tadmor
Achmetha (Ecbatana)
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Sidon
Damascus
SUHU
Sippar
Der
Cuthah
Babylon
Avva
Sephatvaim
Esfahan
Samaria
Shechem
Jerusalem
Manahath
Rabbah (Amman)
ARIBI
Nippur
Hamath
Susa
BABYLONIA
Uruk
CHALDEA
Ur
ELAM
0 100 200 Miles
0 100 200 Kilometers
Ezion-geber
RED SEA
PERSIAN GULF
DEPORTATIONS OF THE ISRAELITES AND RETURNS
City
Route of exiles from Canaan in Assyrian captivity (2 Kgs. 17:6; 18:11; 1 Chr. 5:26)
Route of exiles to Canaan in Assyrian captivity (2 Kgs. 17:24–31)
Route of exiles from Canaan in Babylonian captivity (2 Kgs. 24:12ff; 25:11; Jer. 52:28ff; Ezek. 3:15)
Return of exiles under Sheshbazzar and Zerubbabel (Ezr. 1:8-10; 2:1–2; Neh. 7:6-7)
Return of exiles under Ezra (Ezr. 8:31) and Nehemiah (Neh. 2:10-11)
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Old English words

Afar	Far away
Ass	Donkey
Aught	Anything at all
Befallen	Happened to
Dealt	Done
Dost, Doest	Do
Draw nigh	Come near
Fetch	Go and get
Gat	Get, got
Hence	From this place
Hereby	By this
Heretofore	Before now
Hindmost	Last
Hither	Here
Hitherto	Up until now
Howbeit	However, nevertheless
Inasmuch	Since
Midst	Middle
Mixt	Mixed
Nigh	Near
Notwithstanding	Nevertheless, in spite of this
Peradventure	Perhaps
Plow	Plough
Straightway	Immediately
Selfsame	That same
Shew	Show
Thereon	On that
Therewith	With that
Thither	To there
Thou	You *(singular)*
Thou art	You are
Thrust out	Cast out
Uttermost	Farthest
Whence	From where
Wherefore	Why
Wherewith	With which
Whilst	While
Whither	To where
Whomsoever	Whoever
Wilt	Will
Wit, wot, wist	Know
Withholden	Held back
Wont to do	In the habit of doing
Wrought	Done, made

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