Walking with the Captives

Week 10

Nehemiah makes Reforms

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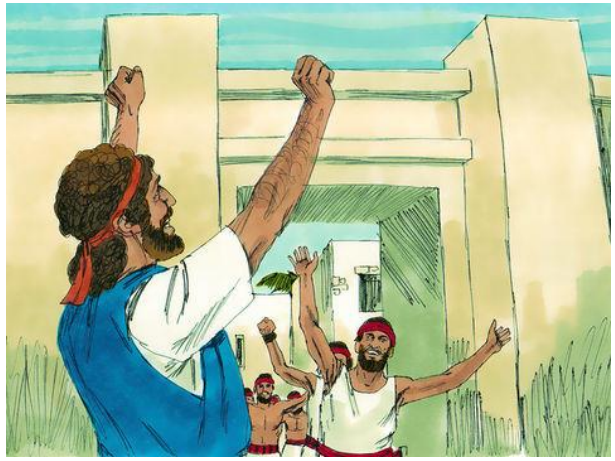
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To read the Bible online go to:

http://www.biblegateway.com/versions/King-James-Version-KJV-Bible/



The walls are finished



Nehemiah chased the sabbath traders

To read KJV in 21st Century English go to:

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Sunday

God's goodness to the Israelites

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 9v4-15

Nehemiah chapter 9 contains a long prayer. They remember how God dealt with Israel in the past. We will take 3 days to consider it.

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1. How did some Levite leaders cry to the LORD? (v4)
2. How long are we to bless the LORD? (v5)
3. How is God's name exalted? (v5)
4. What had the LORD created? (v6)

Heaven of heavens is where God lives. It is sometimes called the 3rd heaven. The 1st heaven is the atmosphere where the bird fly. The 2nd heaven is where the sun, moon and stars are. God preserves them all. The host of heaven is the angels. They worship God (Hebrews 1v6).

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5. What did God do for Abram? (v7) *Find Ur and Canaan on a map*
6. How was Abram's heart before the LORD? (v8)
7. How is God described? (v8)
8. How had Pharaoh and the Egyptians treated Israelites in Egypt? (v9+10)
9. What did God do when He heard their cry by the Red Sea? (v9+11) *Find it on a map*
10. How did God lead them? (v12)
11. What did God give them at Sinai? (v13+14) *Find it on a map*
12. How did God provide for their hunger and thirst? (v15)

MEANINGS:

Exalted = uplifted, praised;

Glorious = marvellous, splendid;

Covenant = agreement;

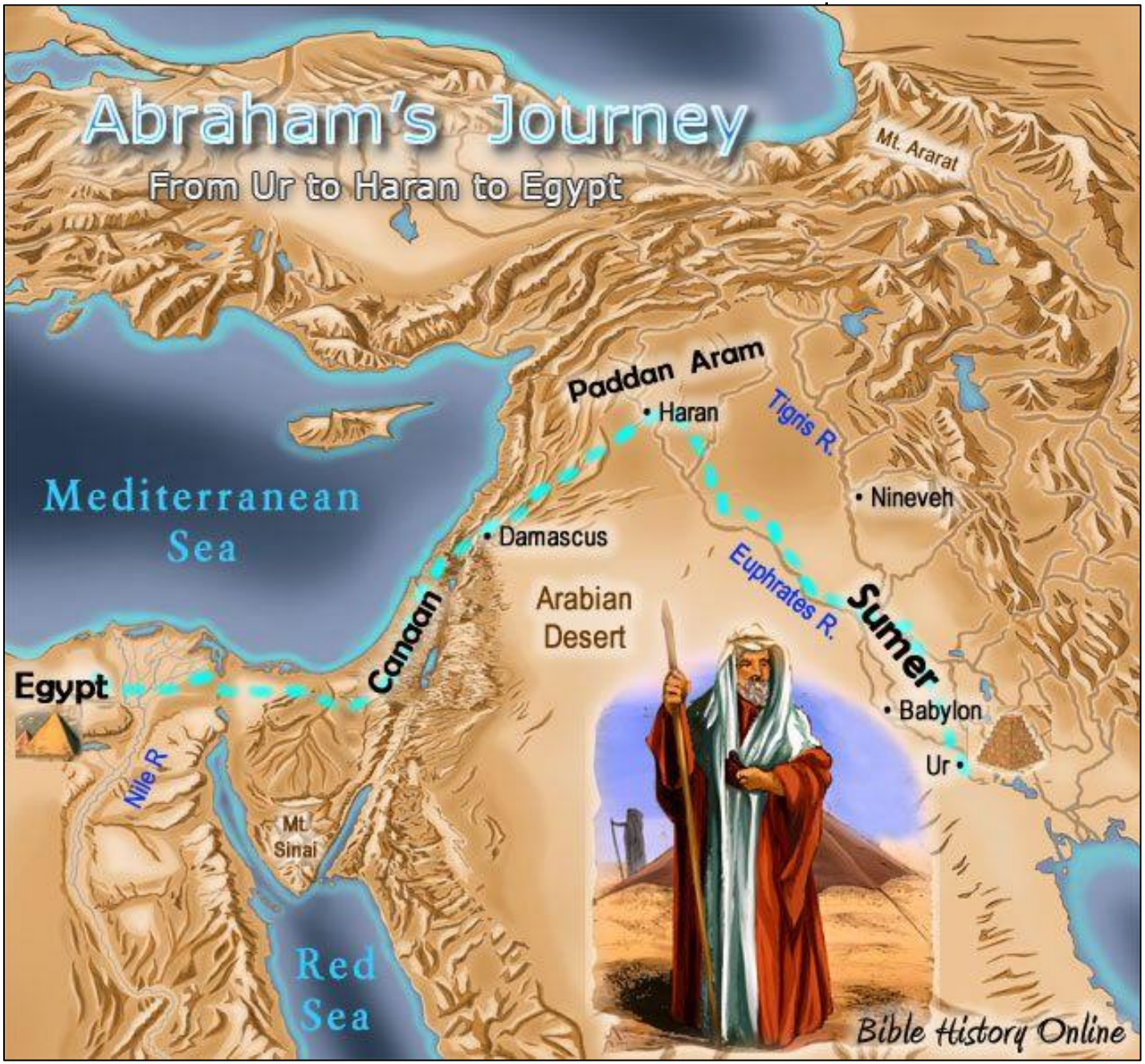
Affliction = suffering;

Precepts = rules



There is only One True Living God. He is the LORD and the Creator of the universe. He is righteous and worthy of all our praise.

Take time to think about all He has done for you… how He has protected you, guided you and provided for you. Then, praise Him for it.



"Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee." (Nehemiah 9v6)

Answers

1) With a loud voice; 2) Forever and ever; 3) Above all blessing and praise; 4) Heaven, heaven of heavens with all their host, earth, seas and all that is in them; 5) Chose him, brought him out of Ur and gave him the name Abraham; 6) Faithful; 7) Righteous and kept His promises; 8) Afflicted them and dealt proudly against them; 9) Opened the Red sea for them to go through on dry ground and drowned their persecutors; 10) Pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night; 11) Right judgments, true laws, good statutes and commandments; 12) Bread from heaven (manna) and water from the rock

Monday

The sins of the Israelites

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 9v16-27

1. What did their fathers do? (v16+17)
2. How is God described? (v17)
3. What did the Lord NOT do to them? (v17+19)
4. Who instructed them? (v20)
5. How did the LORD provide for all their needs? (v20+21)
6. What did God give them to possess? (v22-24) *Find them on a map*
7. How did God multiple them? (v23)
8. What good things did God give them? (v25)
9. What did they delight in? (v25)
10. BUT what did they do? (v26)
11. How did God punish them? (v27)
12. What did God do when they cried to Him? (v27)

The saviours here were the judges. Read about them in the book of Judges. They saved Israel from their enemies. Christ saves us from our enemy Satan and sin.

Answers

1) Dealt proudly, hardened their necks to not obey God's commandments, were not mindful of God's wonders among them and appointed a captain to take them back to bondage; 2) Ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; 3) Forsake them; 4) God's good Spirit; 5) Manna, water, clothes did not get worn out, feet did not swell; 6) Kingdoms and nations, land of Sihon and Og, land of Canaan; 7) As the stars of heaven; 8) Strong cities, rich land, houses full of goods, wells dug, vineyards, olive yards, and fruit trees in abundance; 9) God's great goodness; 10) They were disobedient, rebelled against God, cast His law behind them, slew God's prophets and did great provocations; 11) Delivered them to their enemies who vexed them; 12) Heard them and gave them saviours who saved them from their enemies

MEANINGS:

Provocations = did things to make God angry;

Manifold = very many;

Waxed not old = did not wear out;

Corners = districts, areas;

Fat land = rich land;

Oliveyards = olive groves;

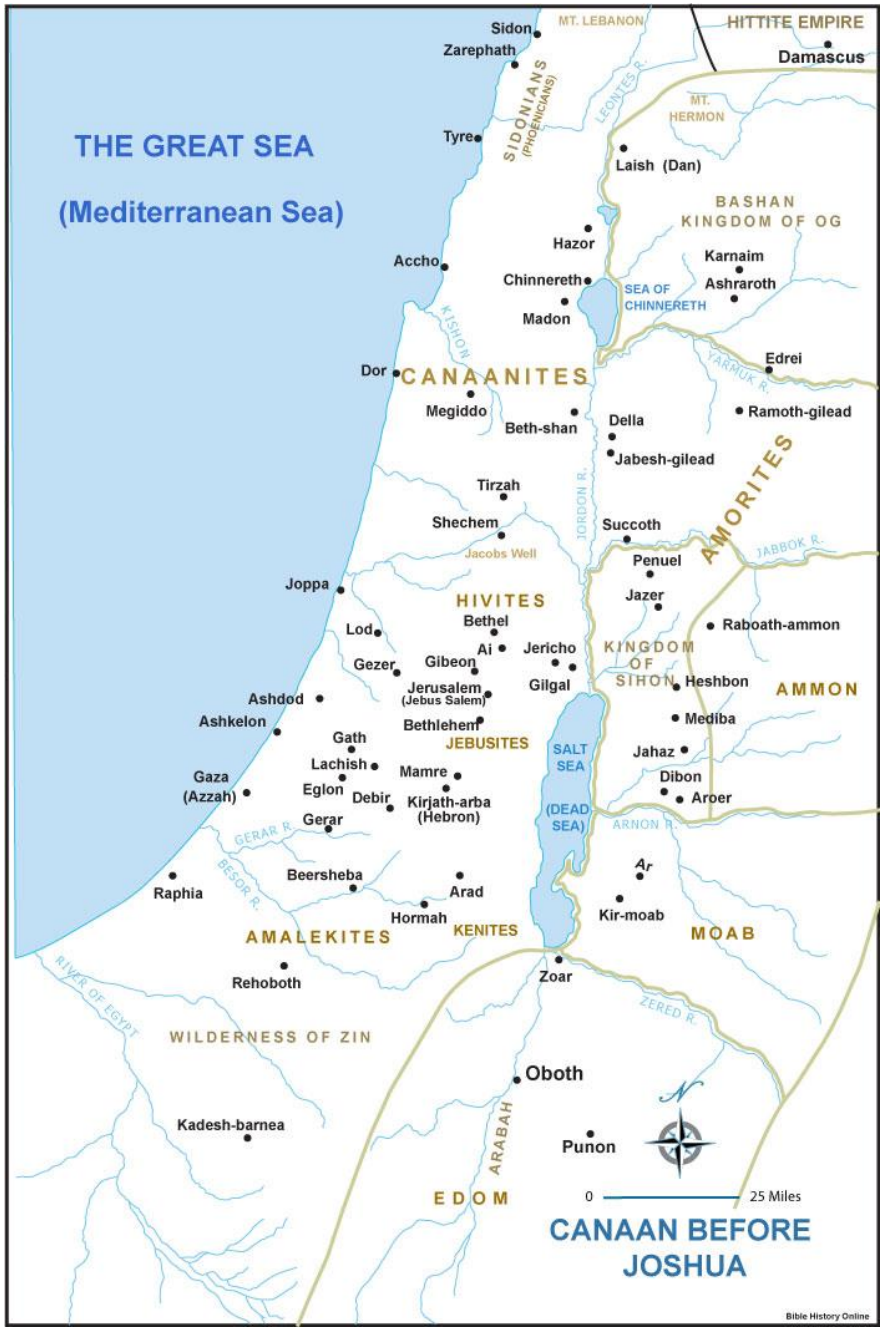
Vexed = grieved

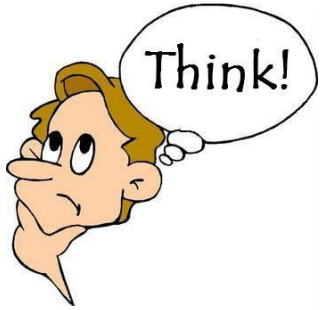


Stop and Think!

God promised Abraham that He would multiple his descendants like the stars… and He would give his descendants the land of Canaan. Read Genesis 15. And God kept His promise.

God ALWAYS keeps His promises. See 1 Corinthians 1v20. Claim His promises in prayer.





God showed them His manifold mercies even though they did not deserve them. He did not forsake them or destroy them. Think about all the mercies God gave them.

Remember, this is the same God that we serve today. We disobey the LORD over and over again. This grieves Him. But He still gives us many, many things that we do not deserve.

"But thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not." (Nehemiah 9v17)

"Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them." (Nehemiah 9v20)

Tuesday

God's mercy and grace to them

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 9v28-38

1. Why did the LORD deliver them many times? (v28)
2. What did the LORD want to bring them again to? (v29)
3. BUT what did they do? (v29)
4. Who did God send to speak to them? (v30)
5. Why would God NOT utterly destroy them? (v31)
6. How is God described? (v31+32)
7. How did God and the Israelites contrast? (v33)
8. Who had disobeyed God? (v32-34)
9. What was great? (v35)
10. What were they in the land? (v36)
11. Why did kings get much increase from their land? (v37)
12. What did the kings have rule over? (v37)
13. What were they in? (v37)
14. What did they make with God? (v38)
15. Who sealed it? (v38)

Nehemiah 10v1-27 gives a list of who sealed the covenant.

Answers

1) According to His mercies; 2) God's law; 3) Dealt proudly, hearkened not to God's commandments, sinned against His judgments, hardened their necks and would not listen; 4) His prophets; 5) For His great mercies sake; 6) Gracious, merciful, great, mighty, terrible who keeps covenant and mercy; 7) God is just and right, Israelites had done wickedly; 8) Their kings, princes, priests, fathers, prophets, people; 9) God's goodness; 10) Servants; 11) Because they had sinned; 12) Their bodies and cattle; 13) Great distress; 14) A covenant; 15) Princes, Levites, priests and Nehemiah

MEANINGS:

Hardened their neck = were stubborn;

Utterly consume = completely destroy;

Terrible God = awesome God;

Wickedly = very sinfully;

Seal = place their seal on a document as a signature;

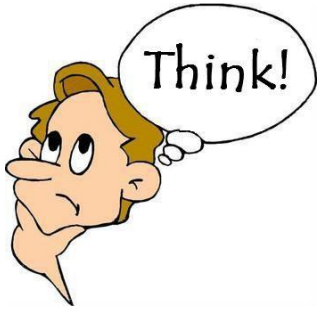
Covenant = agreement;

Tirshatha = governor



This whole chapter 9 tells us much about God.

- *He is the Creator and He is All powerful. We are to worship Him.*
- *He is Holy and hates all sin. We are to confess our sins to Him.*
- *He is merciful, gracious, patient, kind and willing to forgive us.*
- *He is good and just and right. We should obey Him.*
- *He gives us everything we need, even when we don't deserve it.*
- *He always keeps His promises. We can trust Him.*
- *He leads us by His Spirit. Follow Him. He will never lead you wrong.*



Are you willing to say to God, "Lord, you are good and just and right; It is me who is wrong; I have sinned." Are you willing to commit your whole life to Him? Are you willing to obey Him with all your heart? Give God your all and He will bless you.

"Nevertheless for thy great mercies' sake thou didst not utterly consume them, nor forsake them; for thou art a gracious and merciful God." (Nehemiah 9v31)

Wednesday

Promise to keep Covenant

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 10v28-39

1. What did they take an oath to do? (v29)
2. What would they NOT do? (v30)
3. How would they keep the sabbath? (v31)
4. What would they give to God every year? (v32+33)
5. Who cast lots? (v34)
6. What for? (v34)

The wood was for fire when sacrifices were burnt (Leviticus 6v12).

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7. What did they promise to bring to the temple year by year? (v35+36)

The Jews were to bring the first fruits of their harvest as an offering to God (Deuteronomy 18v4; 26v1+2). They were to give the firstborn of their sons and animals to God (Exodus 13v2+12; Leviticus 27v26+27).

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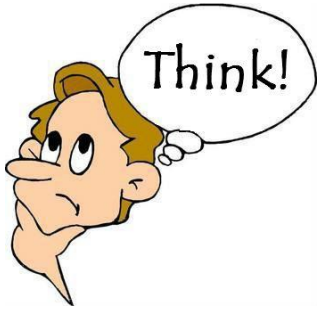
8. What did they tithe? (v37)
9. Who were to receive the tithes? (v37+38)
10. Where were the Levites to bring their tithe of tithes? (v38)
11. What did the people say they would NOT forsake? (v39)



Answers

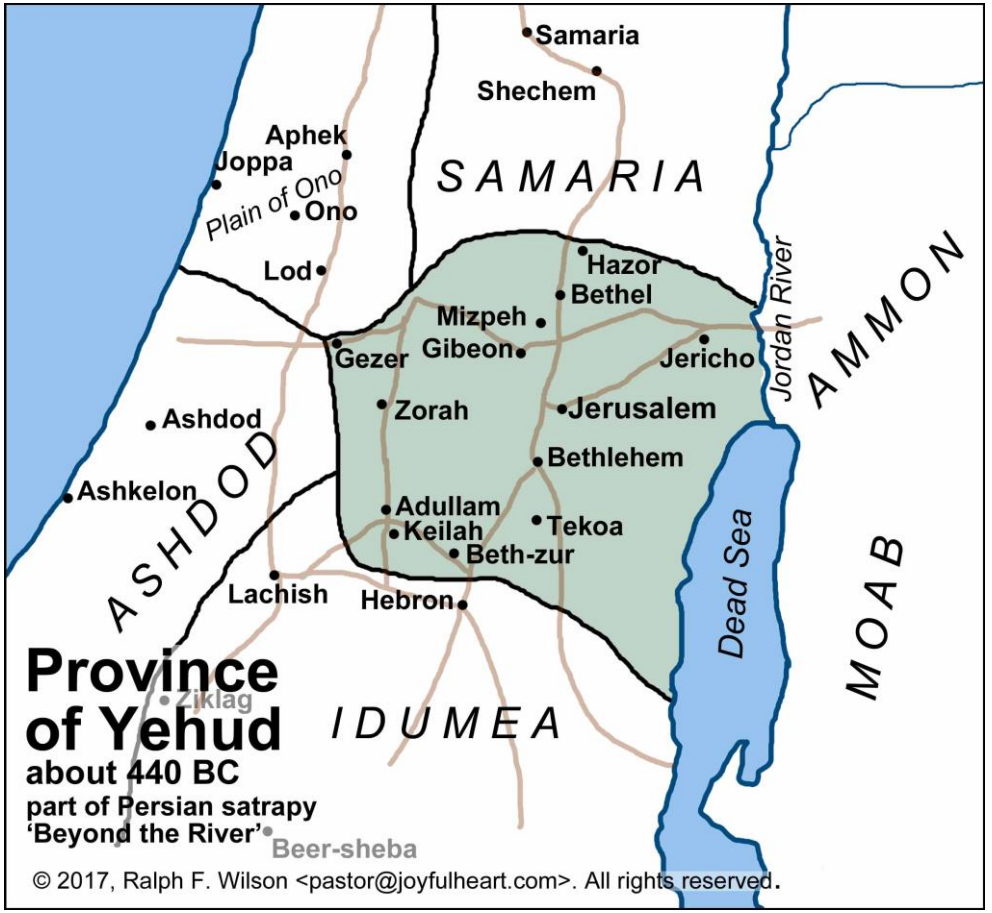
1) To walk in God's law, to do all the commandments, judgments and statutes of the LORD; 2) Let their sons and daughters marry the people of the land; 3) They would not buy goods on the sabbath; 4) A third of a shekel for the service of the temple, for showbread, meal, burnt and sin offerings; 5) Priests, Levites and people; 6) Wood offering; 7) First fruits of land and trees, firstborn sons, firstlings of their herds and flocks; 8) Tithes of their land i.e. fruit, wine, oil etc. 9) Priests and Levites; 10) Temple rooms, storehouse; 11) The house of their God

"We will not forsake the house of our God." (Nehemiah 10v39)



The people made some promises to God. They would obey God about who they married. They would not buy and sell on the sabbath. They would not forsake God's house. They would bring all their tithes and offerings to it.

Are you willing to obey God in your life? Would you promise to live for the LORD... and really mean it?





Who lived in Jerusalem?

Jerusalem's wall was rebuilt. BUT people were needed to live in the city. Nehemiah chapter 11 tells us about who went to live in Jerusalem.

- *One in 10 people were chosen to live in Jerusalem. (11v1).*
- *They willingly offered themselves to live in Jerusalem (11v2).*
- *Rulers (v1), people of Judah and Benjamin (v3-9), priests (v10-14, Levites (v15-18), gatekeepers (v19), temple servants (v21) went to live in Jerusalem.*
- *The rest of the people lived in towns and villages in Judah (v25-35). Levites were scattered throughout all the towns (v36).*

Thursday

Dedication of wall

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 12v27-47

Nehemiah 12v1-26 gives a list of priests and Levites who came with Zerubbabel from Babylon. Ezra chapter 2 lists the names too.

---

1. How was the dedication of the walls kept? (v27)
2. Where did the singers come from? (v28+29) *Find these places on a map*
3. Who were purified? (v30)
4. Who did Nehemiah bring up unto the wall? (v31)
5. What did he appoint 2 companies to do? (v31)
6. What did the priests play? (v35+41)
7. What man led one company? (v36)
8. Name some places they passed. (v31-37) *Find them on a map*
9. Who went after the other group? (v38)
10. Name some places they passed. (v38+39) *Find them on a map*
11. Where did the 2 companies meet? (v40)
12. What did they offer? (v43)
13. Who made them rejoice with great joy? (v43)
14. What was heard afar off? (v43)

Answers

1) With thanksgiving, singing, cymbals, psalteries and harps; 2) Country and villages around Jerusalem, villages of Netophathi, Gilgal, Geba, Azmaveth; 3) Priests, Levites and people; 4) Princes of Judah; 5) Give thanks; 6) Trumpets; 7) Ezra the scribe; 8) Dung gate, fountain gate, stairs to city of David, and water gate; 9) Nehemiah; 10) Tower of furnaces, broad wall, gate of Ephraim, old gate, fish gate, tower of Hananeel, tower of Meah, sheep gate, and prison gate; 11) Temple of God; 12) Great sacrifices; 13) God; 14) Joy of Jerusalem

MEANINGS:

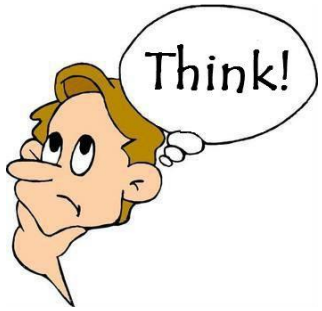
Psalteries = stringed instruments;

Dedication = special service to praise God walls were finished;

Purified = made clean for worship;

Company = group;

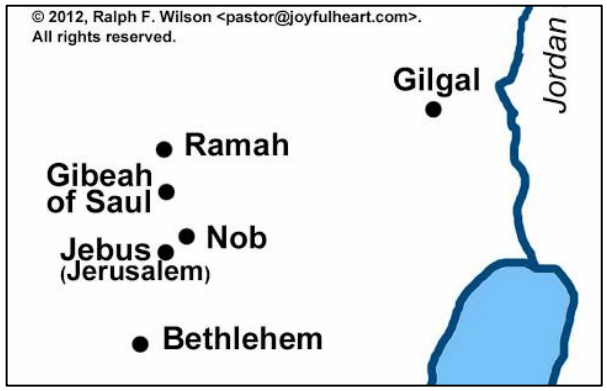
Ward = watch, guard



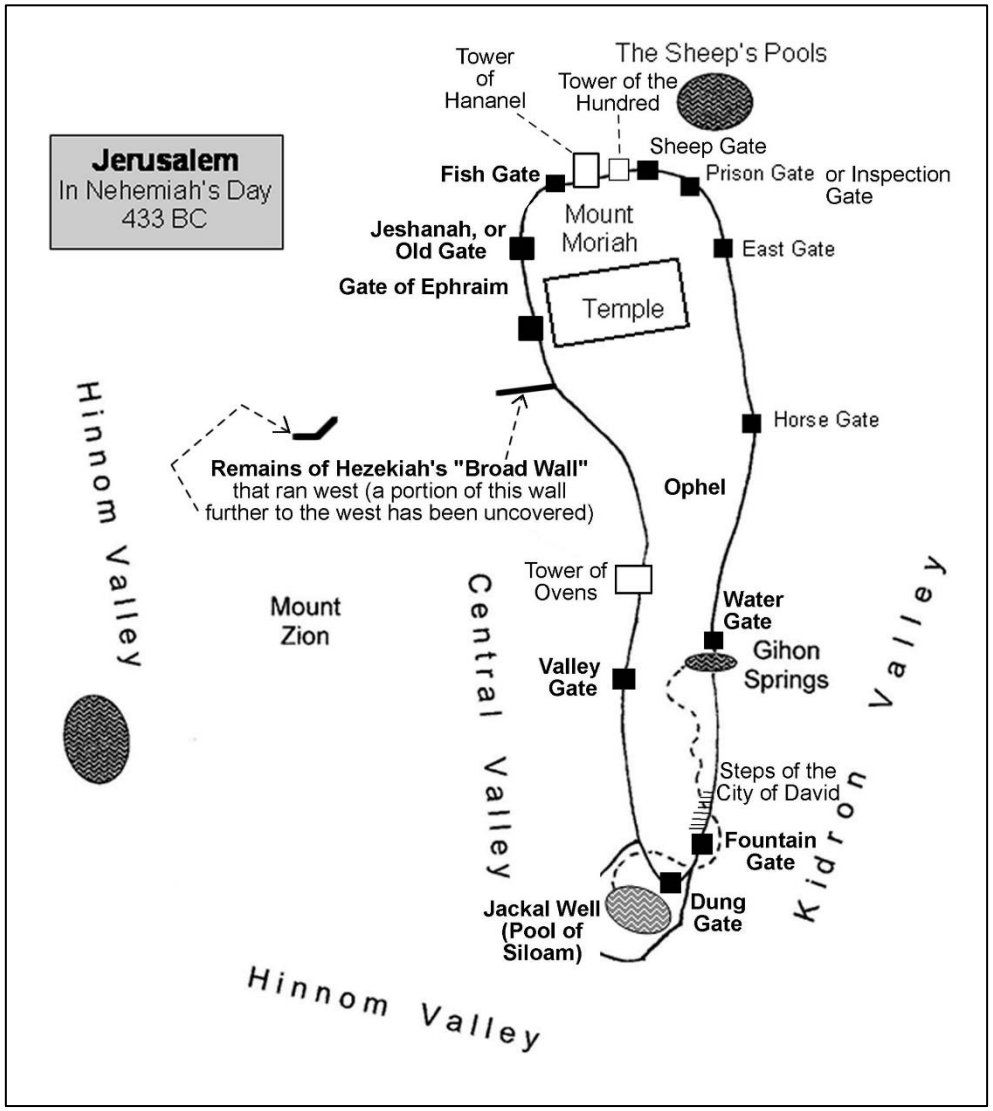
There is great joy in praising and thanking God. Their joy was heard afar off.

Where do you get your joy from? Can others hear and see the joy of the LORD in you?





Tower of Meah is also known as Tower of the hundred



"The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy." (Psalm 147v11)

Friday

Temple cleansed

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 13v1-14

1. What did they find written in the Book of Moses? (v1)
2. Why were Moabites and Ammonites not allowed? (v2)

You can read about this in Deuteronomy 23v3+4 and Numbers 22. Moabites and Ammonites were descendants of Lot (Genesis 19v36-38).

3. Who were separated from Israel? (v3)

The mixed multitude were descendants from mixed marriages.

4. Who was allied to Tobiah? (v4)
5. What had Eliashib done for Tobiah? (v5)

This big room was meant to be a store place for frankincense, vessels, tithes of corn, wine and oil that had been given to the Levites, singers, porters, and priests. Also, Tobiah was an Ammonite (Nehemiah 2v19). Ammonites were NOT allowed in the temple.

6. Why was Nehemiah NOT in Jerusalem at that time? (v6) *Find it on a map*

Nehemiah had been governor in Judah for 12 years (5v14). Then, he had to return to Babylon as he promised (2v6). We don't know how long he was in Babylon before coming back.

7. How did Nehemiah feel about Tobiah in the temple? (v8)
8. What did Nehemiah do? (v8+9)
9. What had happened the Levites and singers? (v10)
10. Who did Nehemiah contend with? (v11)
11. What did the people of Judah do? (v12)
12. What sort of men did Nehemiah put over the treasuries? (v13)
13. What did Nehemiah ask God NOT to wipe out? (v14)



"Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake." (Psalm 79v9)



Who was Eliashib?

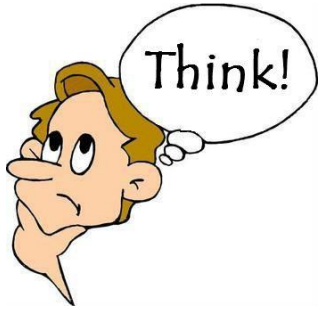
- *He was the high priest (3v1+20)*
- *He helped rebuild a piece of the wall from the sheep gate to the tower of Hananeel (3v1)*
- *His house was in the wall of Jerusalem (3v20)*
- *His grandson had married the daughter of Sanballat (13v28)*
- *He was allied to Tobiah. He let Tobiah live in the temple. As high priest, he should have known that was wrong.*



Stop and Think!

Remember the covenant that the people had signed (chapter 10). The people had gone back on their promises to God.

They had forsaken the house of God. The Levites did not get tithes from the people. They needed to feed their families. So, they fled to the fields to work. Tobiah was an enemy of the work BUT he was living in the room where the tithes were supposed to be kept. What a mess Nehemiah found when he came back from Babylon!



Have you gone back on your promises to God? Have you forsaken the house of God? Have you stopped giving to God? Have you stopped worshipping God? Has your love for God grown cold? Is your life a mess?

Remember God loves you. He wants you to return to Him. Be sorry and He will forgive you.

Answers

1) The Ammonite and Moabite were not to enter into the congregation of the LORD forever; 2) They did not give the children of Israel bread and water but hired Balaam to curse them; 3) All the mixed multitude; 4) Eliashib; 5) Prepared a big room for him in the temple; 6) He was in Babylon; 7) Really grieved; 8) Threw out all the household stuff of Tobiah, had the rooms cleansed and vessels of God brought back again with meal offering and frankincense; 9) They had not been given their portions and so they fled to work in the fields; 10) The rulers; 11) They brought the tithe of corn, wine and oil into the storehouses; 12) Faithful; 13) His good deeds

Saturday

Keeping the Sabbath

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 13v15-31

1. What was happening on the sabbath day? (v15)
2. What were some men of Tyre doing? (v16) *Find Tyre on a map*
3. What did Nehemiah say would come upon them for profaning the sabbath day? (v17+18)
4. How did Nehemiah stop the sabbath trading? (v19)
5. What did some traders do once or twice? (v20)
6. How did Nehemiah stop them? (v21)
7. Who were to guard the gates? (v22)
8. Who had some Jews married? (v23)
9. What language did their children speak? (v24)
10. What did Nehemiah do? (v25)

This seems very extreme but Nehemiah was very upset.

---

11. Who did Nehemiah chase? (v28)
12. Why? (v30+31)

Answers

1) Some were treading winepresses, bringing in sheaves, loading donkeys and selling food at Jerusalem; 2) They brought fish and goods to sell at Jerusalem; 3) Evil and wrath; 4) Gates were shut as it was getting dark before the sabbath and were not opened until the sabbath was over and Nehemiah's servants guarded to that no burden would be brought in on the sabbath; 5) Lodged outside Jerusalem; 6) Told them that if they did it again he would lay hands on them; 7) Levites; 8) Wives from Ashdod, Ammon and Moab; 9) Half in the speech of Ashdod and according to the language of each people; 10) Contended with them, cursed them, smote some of them, pulled their hair and made them swear not give their sons or daughters to marry these people; 11) One of the sons of Joiada from the priesthood; 12) He was son-in-law to Sanballat

MEANINGS:

Lading asses = loading donkeys;

Profane = really dishonour and disrespect;

Outlandish = foreign;

Strange wives = wives from nations who worshipped other gods



Today we do not keep the Saturday sabbath. We keep Sunday holy as a day of rest and worship… because Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week. Try to think about things you could do on Sunday to keep it holy.



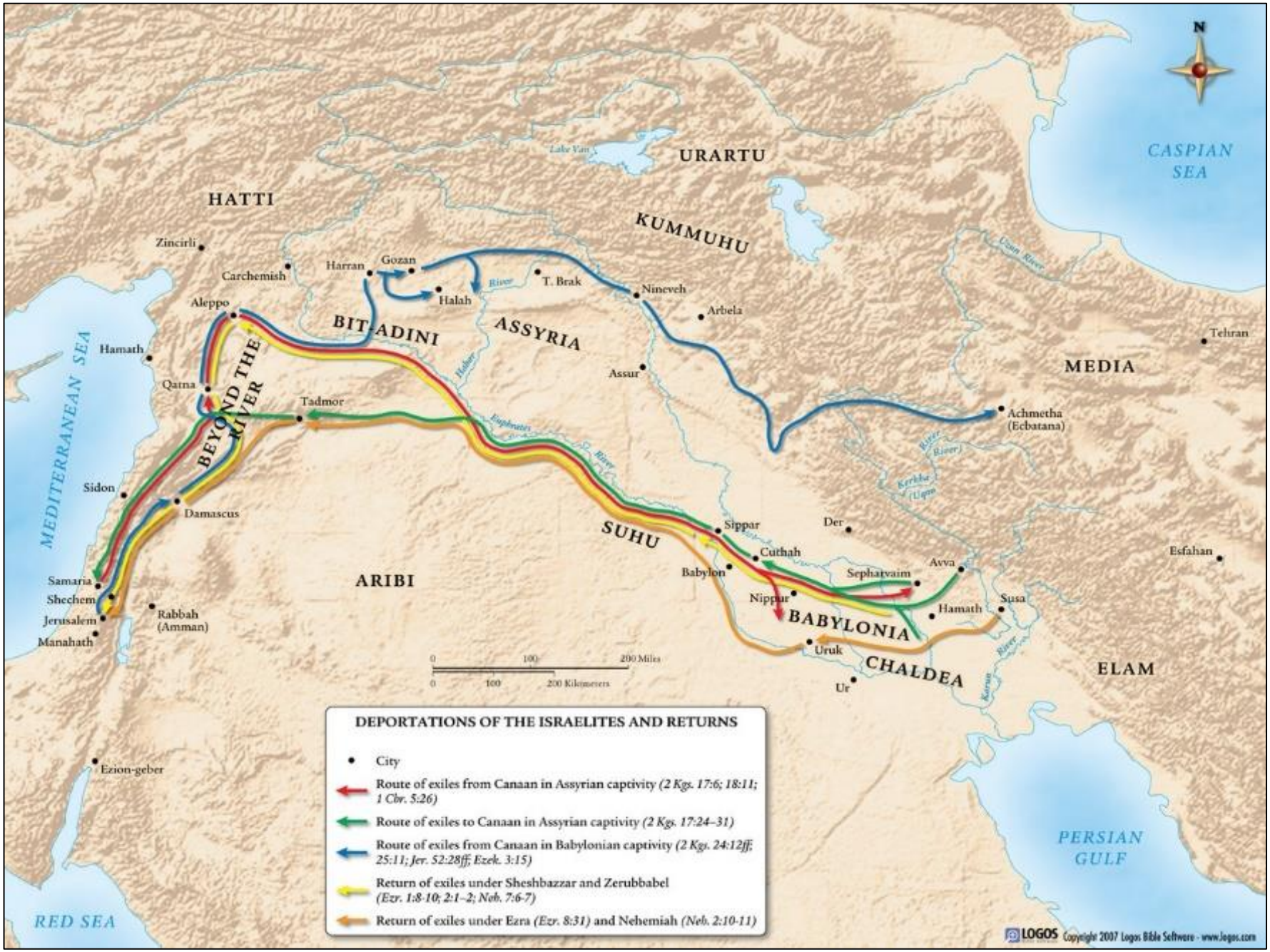
"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." (Exodus 20v8-11)



Nehemiah asked God to:

- *Think upon him for good because of all that he had done for the people (5v19).*
- *Think upon his enemies and deal justly with them (6v14).*
- *Remember him because of all the good things he had done for temple worship (13v14).*
- *Remember him and spare him according to His great mercy (13v22).*
- *Remember him for good (13v31).*
- *Remember those who had defiled true worship (13v29).*

Each time Nehemiah called the LORD 'My God'. Nehemiah knew God as his God. Do you?


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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