

“Dedication of the Work”

Nehemiah 12:27-43

RENEWAL OF THE COVENANT

1. **10:1-27: Community leaders, with Governor Nehemiah leading them, sign their names to the covenant.**
2. **10:28-39: The obligations of the covenant (purity, keeping Sabbath, giving tithes).**
3. **11:1-12:26: Historical record of those who moved to Jerusalem and the surrounding areas.**
 - 7:4: *The city was wide and large, but the people within it were few, and no houses had been rebuilt.*
 - 11:1-2: They cast lots among the people to see who would live in Jerusalem. Ratio: one out of ten

DEDICATION OF THE WALL OF JERUSALEM. 12:27-43

1. Preparation. 12:27-30

- Levites were gathered from the surrounding areas to lead the celebration. v.27
- The celebration included music: instruments, and singers. v.27b-29
- The priests and the Levites purified themselves, the people, and the wall itself. v.30

2. Celebration. 12:31-42

- The leaders went up onto the wall and led two great choirs in a celebration parade. v.31
- One group (led by Ezra, v.36) moved south (counterclockwise) around the city. v.31b-37
- The other group (led by Nehemiah, v.38) moved north (clockwise) around the city. v.38-39
- The two groups met at the Temple, singing praises to God. v.40-42

3. Culmination. 12:43

- “And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away...”

Observations & Applications...

1. Prominent themes...

- Thanksgiving
- Joy
- Singing & music

→ Ephesians 5:18-20: And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. It is appropriate to celebrate accomplishments

- Because of the LORD and HIS faithfulness.
- They could have looked back and only remembered the hard parts.
 - the opposition, oppression, their own sin
- The REALITY of God at work in and through His people.

→ Galatians 4:15: What has happened to all your joy?

3. Dedication.

- from Latin verb *do, dare, dedi, datum*, which means “to offer” or “to give.”
- ‘dedicated to the Lord’ = to give to Him for his complete lordship and use
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
- 1 Corinthians 7:23: You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.

→ Colossians 3:15-17: And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.