

Nehemiah 7-9

New King James Version (NKJV)

Nehemiah 7

¹ Then it was, when the wall was built and I had hung the doors, when the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed, ² that I gave the charge of Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the leader of the citadel, for he *was* a faithful man and feared God more than many.

³ And I said to them, “Do not let the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot; and while they stand *guard*, let them shut and bar the doors; and appoint guards from among the inhabitants of Jerusalem, one at his watch station and another in front of his own house.”

The Captives Who Returned to Jerusalem

⁴ Now the city *was* large and spacious, but the people in it *were* few, and the houses *were* not rebuilt. ⁵ Then my God put it into my heart to gather the nobles, the rulers, and the people, that they might be registered by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of those who had come up in the first *return*, and found written in it:

⁶ These^[a] *are* the people of the province who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his city.

⁷ Those who came with Zerubbabel *were* Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth,^[b] Bigvai, Nehum, and Baanah.

The number of the men of the people of Israel: ⁸ the sons of Parosh, two thousand one hundred and seventy-two;

⁹ the sons of Shephatiah, three hundred and seventy-two;

¹⁰ the sons of Arah, six hundred and fifty-two;

¹¹ the sons of Pahath-Moab, of the sons of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred and eighteen;

¹² the sons of Elam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four;

¹³ the sons of Zattu, eight hundred and forty-five;

¹⁴ the sons of Zaccai, seven hundred and sixty;

¹⁵ the sons of Binnui,^[c] six hundred and forty-eight;

- ¹⁶ the sons of Bebai, six hundred and twenty-eight;
- ¹⁷ the sons of Azgad, two thousand three hundred and twenty-two;
- ¹⁸ the sons of Adonikam, six hundred and sixty-seven;
- ¹⁹ the sons of Bigvai, two thousand and sixty-seven;
- ²⁰ the sons of Adin, six hundred and fifty-five;
- ²¹ the sons of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety-eight;
- ²² the sons of Hashum, three hundred and twenty-eight;
- ²³ the sons of Bezai, three hundred and twenty-four;
- ²⁴ the sons of Hariph,^[d] one hundred and twelve;
- ²⁵ the sons of Gibeon,^[e] ninety-five;
- ²⁶ the men of Bethlehem and Netophah, one hundred and eighty-eight;
- ²⁷ the men of Anathoth, one hundred and twenty-eight;
- ²⁸ the men of Beth Azmaveth,^[f] forty-two;
- ²⁹ the men of Kirjath Jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred and forty-three;
- ³⁰ the men of Ramah and Geba, six hundred and twenty-one;
- ³¹ the men of Michmas, one hundred and twenty-two;
- ³² the men of Bethel and Ai, one hundred and twenty-three;
- ³³ the men of the other Nebo, fifty-two;
- ³⁴ the sons of the other Elam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four;
- ³⁵ the sons of Harim, three hundred and twenty;
- ³⁶ the sons of Jericho, three hundred and forty-five;
- ³⁷ the sons of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred and twenty-one;
- ³⁸ the sons of Senaah, three thousand nine hundred and thirty.

³⁹ The priests: the sons of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred and seventy-three;

⁴⁰ the sons of Immer, one thousand and fifty-two;

⁴¹ the sons of Pashhur, one thousand two hundred and forty-seven;

⁴² the sons of Harim, one thousand and seventeen.

⁴³ The Levites: the sons of Jeshua, of Kadmiel,

and of the sons of Hodevah,^[g] seventy-four.

⁴⁴ The singers: the sons of Asaph, one hundred and forty-eight.

⁴⁵ The gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum,

the sons of Ater,

the sons of Talmon,

the sons of Akkub,

the sons of Hatita,

the sons of Shobai, one hundred and thirty-eight.

⁴⁶ The Nethinim: the sons of Ziha,

the sons of Hasupha,

the sons of Tabbaoth,

⁴⁷ the sons of Keros,

the sons of Sia,^[h]

the sons of Padon,

⁴⁸ the sons of Lebana,^[i]

the sons of Hagaba,^[j]

the sons of Salmai,^[k]

⁴⁹ the sons of Hanan,

the sons of Giddel,

the sons of Gahar,

⁵⁰ the sons of Reaiah,

the sons of Rezin,

the sons of Nekoda,

⁵¹ the sons of Gazzam,

the sons of Uzza,

the sons of Paseah,

⁵² the sons of Besai,

the sons of Meunim,

the sons of Nephishesim, ^[l]

⁵³ the sons of Bakbuk,

the sons of Hakupha,

the sons of Harhur,

⁵⁴ the sons of Bazlith, ^[m]

the sons of Mehida,

the sons of Harsha,

⁵⁵ the sons of Barkos,

the sons of Sisera,

the sons of Tamah,

⁵⁶ the sons of Neziah,

and the sons of Hatipha.

⁵⁷ The sons of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai,

the sons of Sophereth,

the sons of Perida,^[n]

⁵⁸ the sons of Jaala,

the sons of Darkon,

the sons of Giddel,

⁵⁹ the sons of Shephatiah,

the sons of Hattil,

the sons of Pochereth of Zebaim,

and the sons of Amon.^[o]

⁶⁰ All the Nethinim, and the sons of Solomon's servants, *were* three hundred and ninety-two.

⁶¹ And these *were* the ones who came up from Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Cherub, Addon,^[p] and Immer, but they could not identify their father's house nor their lineage, whether they *were* of Israel: ⁶² the sons of Delaiah,

the sons of Tobiah,

the sons of Nekoda, six hundred and forty-two;

⁶³ and of the priests: the sons of Habaiah,

the sons of Koz,^[q]

the sons of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called by their name.

⁶⁴ These sought their listing *among* those who were registered by genealogy, but it was not found; therefore they were excluded from the priesthood as defiled. ⁶⁵ And the governor^[r] said to them that they should not eat of the most holy things till a priest could consult with the Urim and Thummim.

⁶⁶ Altogether the whole assembly *was* forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty, ⁶⁷ besides their male and female servants, of whom *there were* seven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven; and they had two hundred and forty-five men and women singers. ⁶⁸ Their horses were seven hundred and thirty-six, their mules two hundred and forty-five, ⁶⁹ *their* camels four hundred and thirty-five, *and* donkeys six thousand seven hundred and twenty.

⁷⁰ And some of the heads of the fathers' *houses* gave to the work. The governor^[s] gave to the treasury one thousand gold drachmas, fifty basins, and five hundred and thirty priestly garments.

⁷¹ Some of the heads of the fathers' *houses* gave to the treasury of the work twenty thousand gold drachmas, and two thousand two hundred silver minas. ⁷² And that which the rest of the people gave *was* twenty thousand gold drachmas, two thousand silver minas, and sixty-seven priestly garments.

⁷³ So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, *some* of the people, the Nethinim, and all Israel dwelt in their cities.

Ezra Reads the Law

When the seventh month came, the children of Israel *were* in their cities.

Nehemiah 8

¹ Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that *was* in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel. ² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who *could* hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. ³ Then he read from it in the open square that *was* in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* to the Book of the Law.

⁴ So Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of wood which they had made for the purpose; and beside him, at his right hand, stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Urijah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah; and at his left hand Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, *and* Meshullam. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was *standing* above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God.

Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with *their* faces to the ground.

⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people *stood* in their place. ⁸ So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who *was* the governor, ^[1] Ezra the priest *and* scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day *is* holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.

¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for *this* day *is* holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

¹¹ So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day *is* holy; do not be grieved."

¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.

The Feast of Tabernacles

¹³ Now on the second day the heads of the fathers' *houses* of all the people, with the priests and

Levites, were gathered to Ezra the scribe, in order to understand the words of the Law. ¹⁴ And they found written in the Law, which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month, ¹⁵ and that they should announce and proclaim in all their cities and in Jerusalem, saying, “Go out to the mountain, and bring olive branches, branches of oil trees, myrtle branches, palm branches, and branches of leafy trees, to make booths, as *it is* written.”

¹⁶ Then the people went out and brought *them* and made themselves booths, each one on the roof of his house, or in their courtyards or the courts of the house of God, and in the open square of the Water Gate and in the open square of the Gate of Ephraim. ¹⁷ So the whole assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and sat under the booths; for since the days of Joshua the son of Nun until that day the children of Israel had not done so. And there was very great gladness. ¹⁸ Also day by day, from the first day until the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day *there was* a sacred assembly, according to the *prescribed* manner.

Nehemiah 9

The People Confess Their Sins

¹ Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads. ² Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. ³ And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God *for one-fourth* of the day; and *for another* fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God.

⁴ Then Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, *and* Chenani stood on the stairs of the Levites and cried out with a loud voice to the LORD their God. ⁵ And the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, *and* Pethahiah, said:

“Stand up *and* bless the LORD your God
Forever and ever!

“ Blessed be Your glorious name,
Which is exalted above all blessing and praise!

⁶ You alone *are* the LORD;
You have made heaven,
The heaven of heavens, with all their host,
The earth and everything on it,
The seas and all that is in them,
And You preserve them all.
The host of heaven worships You.

⁷ “You *are* the LORD God,
Who chose Abram,
And brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans,
And gave him the name Abraham;

- ⁸ You found his heart faithful before You,
And made a covenant with him
To give the land of the Canaanites,
The Hittites, the Amorites,
The Perizzites, the Jebusites,
And the Girgashites—
To give *it* to his descendants.
You have performed Your words,
For You *are* righteous.
- ⁹ “You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt,
And heard their cry by the Red Sea.
- ¹⁰ You showed signs and wonders against Pharaoh,
Against all his servants,
And against all the people of his land.
For You knew that they acted proudly against them.
So You made a name for Yourself, as *it is* this day.
- ¹¹ And You divided the sea before them,
So that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land;
And their persecutors You threw into the deep,
As a stone into the mighty waters.
- ¹² Moreover You led them by day with a cloudy pillar,
And by night with a pillar of fire,
To give them light on the road
Which they should travel.
- ¹³ “You came down also on Mount Sinai,
And spoke with them from heaven,
And gave them just ordinances and true laws,
Good statutes and commandments.
- ¹⁴ You made known to them Your holy Sabbath,
And commanded them precepts, statutes and laws,
By the hand of Moses Your servant.
- ¹⁵ You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger,
And brought them water out of the rock for their thirst,
And told them to go in to possess the land
Which You had sworn to give them.
- ¹⁶ “But they and our fathers acted proudly,
Hardened their necks,
And did not heed Your commandments.

- ¹⁷ They refused to obey,
And they were not mindful of Your wonders
That You did among them.
But they hardened their necks,
And in their rebellion^[v]
They appointed a leader
To return to their bondage.
But You *are* God,
Ready to pardon,
Gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger,
Abundant in kindness,
And did not forsake them.
- ¹⁸ “Even when they made a molded calf for themselves,
And said, ‘This *is* your god
That brought you up out of Egypt,’
And worked great provocations,
- ¹⁹ Yet in Your manifold mercies
You did not forsake them in the wilderness.
The pillar of the cloud did not depart from them by day,
To lead them on the road;
Nor the pillar of fire by night,
To show them light,
And the way they should go.
- ²⁰ You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them,
And did not withhold Your manna from their mouth,
And gave them water for their thirst.
- ²¹ Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness;
They lacked nothing;
Their clothes did not wear out^[w]
And their feet did not swell.
- ²² “ Moreover You gave them kingdoms and nations,
And divided them into districts.^[x]
So they took possession of the land of Sihon,
The land of^[y] the king of Heshbon,
And the land of Og king of Bashan.
- ²³ You also multiplied their children as the stars of heaven,
And brought them into the land
Which You had told their fathers
To go in and possess.

- ²⁴ So the people went in
And possessed the land;
You subdued before them the inhabitants of the land,
The Canaanites,
And gave them into their hands,
With their kings
And the people of the land,
That they might do with them as they wished.
- ²⁵ And they took strong cities and a rich land,
And possessed houses full of all goods,
Cisterns *already* dug, vineyards, olive groves,
And fruit trees in abundance.
So they ate and were filled and grew fat,
And delighted themselves in Your great goodness.
- ²⁶ “ Nevertheless they were disobedient
And rebelled against You,
Cast Your law behind their backs
And killed Your prophets, who testified against them
To turn them to Yourself;
And they worked great provocations.
- ²⁷ Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their enemies,
Who oppressed them;
And in the time of their trouble,
When they cried to You,
You heard from heaven;
And according to Your abundant mercies
You gave them deliverers who saved them
From the hand of their enemies.
- ²⁸ “ But after they had rest,
They again did evil before You.
Therefore You left them in the hand of their enemies,
So that they had dominion over them;
Yet when they returned and cried out to You,
You heard from heaven;
And many times You delivered them according to Your mercies,
- ²⁹ And testified against them,
That You might bring them back to Your law.
Yet they acted proudly,
And did not heed Your commandments,
But sinned against Your judgments,

‘ Which if a man does, he shall live by them.’^[z]
And they shrugged their shoulders,
Stiffened their necks,
And would not hear.

³⁰ Yet for many years You had patience with them,
And testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets.
Yet they would not listen;
Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.

³¹ Nevertheless in Your great mercy
You did not utterly consume them nor forsake them;
For You *are* God, gracious and merciful.

³² “Now therefore, our God,
The great, the mighty, and awesome God,
Who keeps covenant and mercy:
Do not let all the trouble seem small before You
That has come upon us,
Our kings and our princes,
Our priests and our prophets,
Our fathers and on all Your people,
From the days of the kings of Assyria until this day.

³³ However You *are* just in all that has befallen us;
For You have dealt faithfully,
But we have done wickedly.

³⁴ Neither our kings nor our princes,
Our priests nor our fathers,
Have kept Your law,
Nor heeded Your commandments and Your testimonies,
With which You testified against them.

³⁵ For they have not served You in their kingdom,
Or in the many good *things* that You gave them,
Or in the large and rich land which You set before them;
Nor did they turn from their wicked works.

³⁶ “Here we *are*, servants today!
And the land that You gave to our fathers,
To eat its fruit and its bounty,
Here we *are*, servants in it!

³⁷ And it yields much increase to the kings
You have set over us,

Because of our sins;
Also they have dominion over our bodies and our cattle
At their pleasure;
And we *are* in great distress.

³⁸ “And because of all this,
We make a sure *covenant* and write *it*;
Our leaders, our Levites, *and* our priests seal *it*.”

Acts 3

New King James Version (NKJV)

Acts 3

A Lame Man Healed

¹ Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*. ² And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; ³ who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. ⁴ And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.” ⁵ So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and lifted *him* up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. ⁸ So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God. ¹⁰ Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Preaching in Solomon’s Portico

¹¹ Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon’s, greatly amazed. ¹² So when Peter saw *it*, he responded to the people: “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *Him* go. ¹⁴ But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And His

name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which *comes* through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. ¹⁷ “Yet now, brethren, I know that you did *it* in ignorance, as *did* also your rulers. ¹⁸ But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ^[a] ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. ²² For Moses truly said to the fathers, ‘*The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.*’ ²³ *And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.* ^[b] ²⁴ Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold ^[c] these days. ²⁵ You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘*And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*’ ^[d] ²⁶ To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one *of you* from your iniquities.”