

Dedication of the Walls (late 444 BC)

Nehemiah 12:27–47

Gathering Participants for the Dedication

27 Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites from all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem so that they might celebrate the dedication with gladness, with hymns of thanksgiving and with songs *to the accompaniment* of cymbals, harps and lyres.

28 So the sons of the singers were assembled from the district around Jerusalem, and from the villages of the Netophathites,

29 from Beth-gilgal and from *their* fields in Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built themselves villages around Jerusalem.

30 The priests and the Levites purified themselves; they also purified the people, the gates and the wall.

Two Processions on the Wall

31 Then I had the leaders of Judah come up on top of the wall, and I appointed two great choirs, the first proceeding to the right on top of the wall toward the Refuse Gate.

32 Hoshaiiah and half of the leaders of Judah followed them,

33 with Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam,

34 Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah,

35 and some of the sons of the priests with trumpets; *and* Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph,

36 and his kinsmen, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah *and* Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God. And Ezra the scribe went before them.

37 At the Fountain Gate they went directly up the steps of the city of David by the stairway of the wall above the house of David to the Water Gate on the east.

38 The second choir proceeded to the left, while I followed them with half of the people on the wall, above the Tower of Furnaces, to the Broad Wall,

39 and above the Gate of Ephraim, by the Old Gate, by the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate; and they stopped at the Gate of the Guard.

The Ceremonies at the Temple

40 Then the two choirs took their stand in the house of God. So did I and half of the officials with me; 41 and the priests, Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah and Hananiah, with the trumpets;

42 and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam and Ezer. And the singers sang, with Jezrahiah *their* leader,

43 and on that day they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced because God had given them great joy, even the women and children rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard from afar.

Provisions for the Temple Storerooms

44 On that day men were also appointed over the chambers for the stores, the contributions, the first fruits and the tithes, to gather into them from the fields of the cities the portions required by the law for the priests and Levites; for Judah rejoiced over the priests and Levites who served.

45 For they performed the worship of their God and the service of purification, together with the singers and the gatekeepers in accordance with the command of David *and* of his son Solomon.

46 For in the days of David and Asaph, in ancient times, *there were* leaders of the singers, songs of praise and hymns of thanksgiving to God.

47 So all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and Nehemiah gave the portions due the singers and the gatekeepers as each day required, and set apart the consecrated *portion* for the Levites, and the Levites set apart the consecrated *portion* for the sons of Aaron.

The LORD Surrounds His People (c. late 444 BC)

Psalm 125

A Song of Ascents.

- 1 Those who trust in the LORD
Are as Mount Zion, which cannot be moved but abides forever.
- 2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
So the LORD surrounds His people
From this time forth and forever.
- 3 For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest upon the land of the righteous,
So that the righteous will not put forth their hands to do wrong.
- 4 Do good, O LORD, to those who are good
And to those who are upright in their hearts.
- 5 But as for those who turn aside to their crooked ways,
The LORD will lead them away with the doers of iniquity.
Peace be upon Israel.

He Heals the Brokenhearted (c. late 444 BC)

Psalm 147

- 1 Praise the LORD!
For it is good to sing praises to our God;
For it is pleasant *and* praise is becoming.
- 2 The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
He gathers the outcasts of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted
And binds up their wounds.
- 4 He counts the number of the stars;
He gives names to all of them.
- 5 Great is our Lord and abundant in strength;
His understanding is infinite.
- 6 The LORD supports the afflicted;
He brings down the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
Sing praises to our God on the lyre,
- 8 Who covers the heavens with clouds,
Who provides rain for the earth,
Who makes grass to grow on the mountains.
- 9 He gives to the beast its food,
And to the young ravens which cry.
- 10 He does not delight in the strength of the horse;
He does not take pleasure in the legs of a man.
- 11 The LORD favors those who fear Him,
Those who wait for His lovingkindness.
- 12 Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

- 13 For He has strengthened the bars of your gates;
He has blessed your sons within you.
- 14 He makes peace in your borders;
He satisfies you with the finest of the wheat.
- 15 He sends forth His command to the earth;
His word runs very swiftly.
- 16 He gives snow like wool;
He scatters the frost like ashes.
- 17 He casts forth His ice as fragments;
Who can stand before His cold?
- 18 He sends forth His word and melts them;
He causes His wind to blow and the waters to flow.
- 19 He declares His words to Jacob,
His statutes and His ordinances to Israel.
- 20 He has not dealt thus with any nation;
And as for His ordinances, they have not known them.
Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a New Song (c. late 444 BC)

Psalm 149

- 1 Praise the LORD!
Sing to the LORD a new song,
And His praise in the congregation of the godly ones.
- 2 Let Israel be glad in his Maker;
Let the sons of Zion rejoice in their King.
- 3 Let them praise His name with dancing;
Let them sing praises to Him with timbrel and lyre.
- 4 For the LORD takes pleasure in His people;
He will beautify the afflicted ones with salvation.
- 5 Let the godly ones exult in glory;
Let them sing for joy on their beds.
- 6 *Let* the high praises of God *be* in their mouth,
And a two-edged sword in their hand,
- 7 To execute vengeance on the nations
And punishment on the peoples,
- 8 To bind their kings with chains
And their nobles with fetters of iron,
- 9 To execute on them the judgment written;
This is an honor for all His godly ones.
Praise the LORD!

Let Everything Praise the LORD (c. late 444 BC)

Psalm 150

- 1 Praise the LORD!
Praise God in His sanctuary;
Praise Him in His mighty expanse.

- 2 Praise Him for His mighty deeds;
Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.
- 3 Praise Him with trumpet sound;
Praise Him with harp and lyre.
- 4 Praise Him with timbrel and dancing;
Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe.
- 5 Praise Him with loud cymbals;
Praise Him with resounding cymbals.
- 6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD!

Nehemiah Returns to Babylon (c. 433–429 BC)

Nehemiah 13:6a

6a But during all this *time* I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had gone to the king.

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