

The Repopulation of Jerusalem (late 444 BC)

Nehemiah 11:1–24

1 Chronicles 9:1b–34

Summary Statement

1 Now the commanders of the people lived in Jerusalem, but the remainder of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to live in the holy city of Jerusalem, the *other* nine's place *was in the other* cities.

2 And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered to live in Jerusalem.

Heading

3 These are the heads of the province who lived in Jerusalem, but in the cities of Judah each one lived on his property in their cities: Israel, the priests, the Levites, the temple servants, and the descendants of Solomon's servants.

Judah

4 And *some* from the descendants of Judah and Benjamin lived in Jerusalem. From the descendants of Judah: Athaiah son of Uziah, son of Zechariah, son of Amariah, son of Shephatiah, son of Mahalalel, from the descendants of Perez;

5 and Maaseiah son of Baruch, son of Col-Hozeh, son of Hazaiah, son of Adaiah, son of Jehoiarib, son of Zechariah, son of the Shilonite.

6 All of the descendants of Perez who were living in Jerusalem *were* four hundred and sixty-eight able-bodied men.

Benjamin

7 These are the descendants of Benjamin: Sallu son of Meshullam, son of Joed, son of Pedaiah, son of Kolaiah, son of Maaseiah, son of Ithiel, son of Jeshaiiah.

8 And *following* after him Gabbai, Sallai, nine hundred and twenty-eight.

9 And Joel son of Zicri, their chief officer; and Judah son of Hassenuah, second *in command* over the city.

Priests

10 From the priests: Jedaiah son of Jehoiarib, Jakin,

11 Seraiah son of Hilkiah, son of Meshullam, son of Zadok, son of Meraioth, son of Ahitub—the leader of the house of God—
12 and their brothers who did the work of the house, eight hundred and twenty-two. And Adaiah son of Jeroham, son of Pelaliah, son of Amzi, son of Zechariah, son of Pashhur, son of Malkijah,

13 and his brothers, heads of the families, two hundred and forty-two. And Amashai son of Azarel, son of Ahzai, son of Meshillemoth, son of Immer,

14 and their brothers; mighty warriors of strength, one hundred and twenty-eight. The chief officer over them *was* Zabdiel son of Hagedolim.

Levites

15 Now from the Levites: Shemaiah son of Hasshub, son of Azrikam, son of Hashabiah, son of Bunni;

16 and Shabbethai and Jehozabad, leaders over the work of the Levites outside of the house of God;

1b And Judah was taken away to Babylon on account of their sin.

2 Now the first inhabitants who *were settled* on their property in their cities *in* Israel *were* the priests, the Levites, and the temple servants.

3 And some of the people of Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh lived in Jerusalem:

4 Uthai the son of Ammihud, son of Omri, son of Imri, son of Bani, from the sons of Perez, the son of Judah.

5 And from the Shilonites: Asaiah the firstborn and his sons.

6 And from the sons of Zerach: Jeuel and their brethren, six hundred and ninety.

7 And from the sons of Benjamin: Sallu the son of Meshullam, son of Hodaviah, the son of Hassenuah;

8 Ibneah the son of Jeroham; Elah the son of Uzzi, son of Michri; Meshullam the son of Shephatiah, son of Reuel, son of Ibnijah;

9 and their brethren according to their generations, nine hundred and fifty-six. All these men *were* the heads of the families in the house of their fathers.

10 And from the priests: Jedaiah; Jehoiarib; Jakin;

11 Azariah son of Hilkiah, son of Meshullam, son of Zadok, son of Meraioth, son of Ahitub, the commander of the house of God;

12 Adaiah son of Jeroham, son of Pashhur, son of Malkijah; Maasai the son of Adiel, son of Jahzerah, son of Meshullam, son of Meshillemith, son of Immer;

13 and their kinsmen, heads of the house of their fathers, one thousand seven hundred and sixty mighty men *for* the work of the service of the house of God.

14 And from the Levites: Shemaiah son of Hasshub, son of Azrikam, son of Hashabiah, from the sons of Merari;

15 Bakbakkar; Heresh; Galal; Mattaniah the son of Mica, son of Zicri, son of Asaph;

17 Mattaniah son of Micah, son of Zabdi, son of Asaph, *who was* the leader to begin the thanksgiving prayer, and Bakbukiah the second of his brothers; Abda son of Shammua, son of Galal, son of Jeduthun.

18 All of the Levites in the holy city *were* two hundred and eighty-four.

Gatekeepers

19 The gatekeepers: Akkub, Talmon, and their brothers, the keepers of the gates, one hundred and seventy-two.

Duties

Levitical Singers

16 Obadiah the son of Shemaiah, son of Galal, son of Jeduthun; and Berechiah the son of Asa, son of Elkanah, who lived in the villages of Netophathite.

17 And the gatekeepers *were* Shallum, Akkub, Talmon, Ahiman, and their brethren (Shallum *was* the chief);

18 until then they *were* gatekeepers at the gate of the king on the east *side* toward the camps of the Levites.

19 And Shallum the son of Kore, son of Ebiasaph, son of Korah, and his kinsmen of the house of his fathers, the Korahites, *were* over the work of the service, the guardians of the entrances to the tent, and their fathers *were* over the camp of Yahweh, guardians of the entrance.

20 And Phinehas the son of Eleazar was the leader over them in time past; Yahweh *was* with him.

21 Zechariah the son of Meshelemiah *was* gatekeeper at the doorway to the tent of assembly.

22 All of them were chosen as gatekeepers at the entrances, two hundred and twelve. They were enrolled by genealogies in their villages. They *were* established *by* David and Samuel the seer on account of their faithfulness.

23 So they and their sons *were* over the gates of the house of Yahweh at the house of the tent as guards.

24 The gatekeepers *were* on four sides: east, west, north, and south.

25 And their brethren in their villages *were* to come *every* seven days by turn *to be* with these.

26 For the four mighty gatekeepers, they who *were* Levites, were entrusted and *were* over the chambers and over the storerooms of the house of God.

27 And they lodged all around the house of God, for upon them *was* a responsibility. And they had charge of opening *the house of God* every morning.

28 And some of them *were* over the utensils of the service, for they count them *when* they are brought in and they count them *when* they are brought out.

29 And some of them were appointed over the objects, over the objects of the sanctuary, and over the wheat flour and the wine, the olive oil, the frankincense, and the spices.

30 And some of the sons of the priests mixed the fragrant ointment for the spices.

31 And Mattithiah, one of the Levites, was the firstborn of Shallum the Korahite and was entrusted with the work of the pan breads.

32 And from the sons of the Kohathites, some of their kinsmen *were* over the showbread to prepare *it* every Sabbath.

33 Now these *were* the singers; the heads of the families of the Levites *were* in the chambers free from other service, for day and night *they were* over them on the service.

<p>Summary</p> <p>The Rest 20 And the remainder of Israel, the priests and the Levites, in all of the cities of Judah, each in his inheritance.</p> <p>Temple Servants 21 But the temple servants were living on the Ophel; Ziha and Gishpa <i>were</i> over the temple servants.</p> <p>Levitical Overseers 22 The chief officer of the Levites in Jerusalem <i>was</i> Uzzi son of Bani, son of Hashabiah, son of Mattaniah, son of Mica, from the descendants of Asaph, the singers over the work of the house of God. 23 For <i>there was</i> a command of the king concerning them and a regulation concerning the singers, required day by day.</p> <p>Liaison with the King 24 And Pethahiah son of Meshezabel, from the descendants of Zerah the son of Judah, <i>was</i> at the hand of the king in all matters concerning the people.</p>	<p>34 These <i>were</i> the heads of the families of the Levites according to their genealogies, leaders. These lived in Jerusalem.</p>
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The Repopulation of the Surrounding Villages (late 444 BC)

Nehemiah 11:25–36

25 As for the villages in their territories, *some* from the descendants of Judah lived in Kiriath-Arba and its settlements, Dibon and its settlements, Jekabzeel and its settlements,
 26 Jeshua, Moladah, Beth Pelet,
 27 Hazar Shual, Beersheba and its settlements,
 28 Ziklad, Meconah and its settlements,
 29 En-Rimmon, Zorah, Jarmuch,
 30 Zanoah, Adullam and their settlements, Lachish and its fields, and Azekah and its settlements. So they camped from Beersheba up to *the* Valley of Hinnom.
 31 The descendants of Benjamin from Geba, Micmash, Aija, Bethel and their settlements,
 32 Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah,
 33 Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim,
 34 Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat,
 35 Lod, and Ono the valley of the artisans.
 36 And from the Levites the working groups of Judah *were assigned* to Benjamin.

Priests and Levites During the Persian Empire (c. 537 – c. 330 BC)

Nehemiah 12:1–26

Priests and Levites Who Returned with Zerubbabel (c. 537)

1 These *are* the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra,
 2 Amariah, Malluch, Hattush,
 3 Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth,
 4 Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah,
 5 Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah,
 6 Shemaiah, Jehoiarib, Jedaiah,
 7 Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, Jedaiah. These *are* the heads of the priests and their brothers in the days of Jeshua.
 8 And the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah and his brothers *who were* in charge of the songs of thanksgiving.
 9 And Bakbukiah, Unno, their brothers *stood* opposite them during service.

The Line of High Priests (c. 537 – c. 330)

10 Jeshua fathered Jehoiakim; Jehoiakim fathered Eliashib; Eliashib *fathered* Jehoiada;
 11 Jehoiada fathered Jehonathan; Jehonathan fathered Jaddua.

Heads of Priestly Families in Joiakim's Day (c. 500 – c. 470)

12 Now in the days of Jehoiakim the priests and the heads of the families were: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah;
 13 of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan;
 14 of Melichu, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph;
 15 of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai;
 16 of Adaia, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam;
 17 of Abijah, Zicri; of Miniamin; of Moadiah, Piltai;
 18 of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan;
 19 of Jehoiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi;
 20 of Sallu, Kallai; of Amok, Eber;
 21 of Hilkiyah, Hashabiah; *and* of Jedaiah, Nethanel.

Recording of Levitical and Priestly Families up to the Time of Darius III (c. 470 – c. 330)

22 In the days of Eliashib, Jehoiada, Jehohanan, and Jaddua the Levites were recorded as heads of the families. So *these were* the priests *during* the reign of Darius the Persian.
 23 The descendants of Levi and the heads of the families were recorded in the scroll of the Annals until the days of Jehohanan son of Eliashib.

Heads of Levitical Families in Joiakim's and Nehemiah's Day (c. 500 – c. 425)

24 And the heads of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, Jeshua son of Kadmiel, and their brothers opposite them, to praise and to give thanks by the command of David the man of God, section alongside section.
 25 Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were gatekeepers standing guard at the storerooms of the gates.
 26 These were in the days of Jehoiakim son of Jeshua, son of Jehozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor and Ezra the priest and scribe.

Dedication of the Walls (late 444 BC)

Nehemiah 12:27–47

Gathering Participants for the Dedication

27 At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites from all of their places in order to bring them to Jerusalem to do the dedication with joy, thanksgivings, song and cymbals, stringed instruments and lyres.
 28 The singers were gathered from the circuit all around Jerusalem and from the villages of Netophathite,
 29 from Beth Gilgal, from the field of Geba and Azmaveth; for the singers built for themselves villages all around Jerusalem.
 30 And the priests and the Levites purified themselves and purified the people, the gates, and the wall.

Two Processions on the Wall

31 Then I brought the commanders of Judah up on to the wall. I appointed two great choirs; *one went in* a procession to the right on the wall to the Dung Gate.
 32 After them went Hoshaiiah, half of the commanders of Judah,
 33 Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam,
 34 Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah,
 35 and the priests with trumpets; Zechariah son of Jehonathan, son of Shemaiah, son of Mattaniah, son of Micaiah, son of Zaccur, son of Asaph;
 36 and his brothers Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani with the instruments of the songs of David the man of God; and Ezra the scribe *went* before them.
 37 At the Fountain Gate opposite them they went up the steps of the city of David, at the ascent to the wall, over the house of David, and up to the Water Gate to the east.
 38 Then the second choir went the opposite *way*. I *followed* after them with half of the people on the wall, from over the Tower of the Ovens up to the Wide Wall
 39 and over the Gate of Ephraim, at the Old Gate, at the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred, and to the Sheep Gate. And they *stopped and* stood at the Gate of the Guard.

The Ceremonies at the Temple

40 So the two choirs stood in the house of God, and I and half of the prefects with me;

41 and the priests Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah with the trumpets;

42 Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malkijah, Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang with Jizrahiah the chief officer.

43 They offered on that day great sacrifices and rejoiced because God brought great joy to them. And the women and children also rejoiced. The joy of Jerusalem was heard from afar.

Provisions for the Temple Storerooms

44 On that day men were appointed for the storehouse rooms, the offerings, the first fruits, and the tithes, in order to gather in them from the fields of the cities the requirements of the law for the priests and Levites; for the joy of Judah *was* upon the priests and Levites standing there.

45 They kept the responsibility of their God and the responsibility of cleansing, and the singers and gatekeepers, according to the command of David and his son Solomon.

46 For in the days of David and Asaph from ancient times there was the head of the singers and a song of praise and thanksgiving to God.

47 So all of Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah gave the daily food portions of the singers and gatekeepers. And they set apart *that which was for* the Levites, and the Levites set apart *that which was for* the descendants of Aaron.

Nehemiah Returns to Babylon (c. 433–429 BC)
Nehemiah 13:6a
6a During all of this, I was not in Jerusalem because in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I went to the king.

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Textual Notes

- 1) My arrangement and harmonization of Nehemiah 11 and 1 Chronicles 9 follows the division as set out by Knoppers (cf. Gary N. Knoppers, "Sources, Revisions, and Editions: The List of Jerusalem's Residents in MT and LXX Nehemiah 11 and 1 Chronicles 9," *Textus* 20 (2000): 141–68). Since the differences between the two texts are significant, I did not make any attempt to harmonize the actual words of the two passages.