

September 28 Answers

- 1) When the exiles first returned to Judah, few actually lived in Jerusalem because the city lay in **ruins**. In Nehemiah's day, some **93** years after the first return, the city was still unpopulated (Neh 7:4). Who wants to live in a city with no **walls**? Once the walls were rebuilt, the people cast **lots** to determine who would relocate (some **volunteered** and were blessed for their enthusiasm). Warren Wiersbe said, "Never under-estimate the importance of simply being physically **present** in the place where God wants you. You may not be asked to perform some **dramatic** ministry, but simply being there is a ministry. The men, women, and children who helped to populate the city of Jerusalem were serving God, their nation, and future generations by their step of **faith**." Nehemiah organized a **dedication** ceremony for the new walls. He appointed **two** great choirs, one for the right side of the city and one for the left. They marched on **top** of the walls and met at the temple. Tobiah had mocked their work: 'Look at that wall! If a fox jumped on it, it would fall down!' (Neh 4:3). I hope he was there to see those two great choirs marching on top of the walls, singing as they walked toward the temple! This teaches us to leave the **taunts** and **jeers** of the world in God's capable hands. He is more than able to make them eat their words!