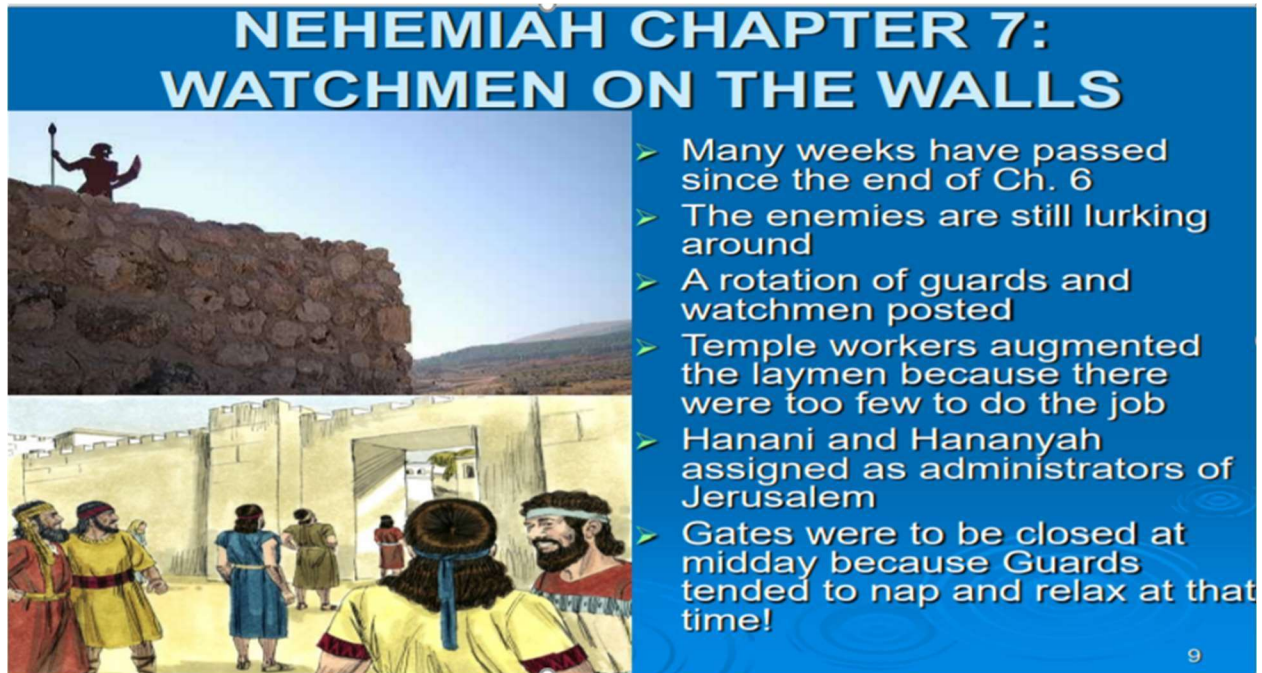


The Book of Nehemiah

Chapter 7

Nehemiah's Jerusalem

A Sure Foundation and An Adequate Wall



**NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 7:
WATCHMEN ON THE WALLS**

- Many weeks have passed since the end of Ch. 6
- The enemies are still lurking around
- A rotation of guards and watchmen posted
- Temple workers augmented the laymen because there were too few to do the job
- Hanani and Hananyah assigned as administrators of Jerusalem
- Gates were to be closed at midday because Guards tended to nap and relax at that time!

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As we enter into Chapter 7 some time has passed since the end of chapter 6; no doubt many weeks, work on the walls would still continue for quite some time, as they needed to be built higher than their present height of around 15 feet in order to give the type of protection that was needed against armies as opposed to guarding against unwanted thieves and bands of marauders.

This is a good time to stop and evaluate ourselves spiritually:

- I. The foundation has been laid.
 - a. Are you building on a solid foundation?
 - i. Is your foundation Biblical
 - ii. Is your foundation make of a self-concocted solution (a little bit of this, a little bit of that)
 - iii. Is your foundation made up of darkness (wickedness, demonic behavior)
- II. The walls are inadequate
 - a. What level of maturity have you reached?
 - i. Are you mature enough to avoid thieves (individual, non-strategic attacks)
 - ii. Are you mature enough to avoid strategic attacks by formidable enemies (armies)

Strengthen Your Weakness

Many residents' homes were literally built into the city wall (a usual and common practice in that era, Remember Rahab lived on the wall), and so those residents were specifically assigned to watch the wall sections where their homes were located. As extra precaution, for the short term at least, the gates were to be closed when the sun was the hottest and then (it is assumed) the gates will be reopened by the same guards as the early afternoon passes.

Now this might seem strange as to why they would do this. But S.R. Driver has discovered at least 2 documented instances in Roman times when city gates were overrun because it was the habit of the soldiers to take a siesta after eating lunch, and this practice was well known by the enemy. And since in our story it was lay people being used as gate guards, it would be all the more tempting for those guarding the Jerusalem gates to take a little time off after lunch and relax figuring who would attack at the hottest time of the day and in broad daylight? So Nehemiah's solution was essentially to close the city gates during that time and not reopen them until the people on guard duty were ready to be alert again. Nehemiah understood his weakness so he implemented a plan to "strengthen this weakness".

- I. Have you put a plan in place to
 - a. Avoid pot holes
 - b. Strengthen your weakness
 - c. Address your vulnerabilities

Let the Redeemed of God Say So

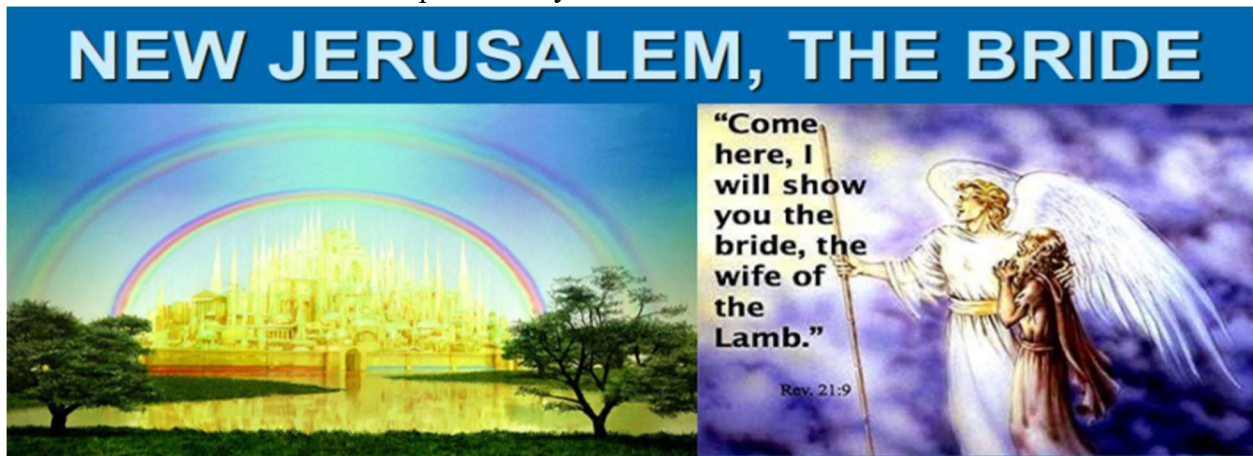
Reading through the genealogy may seem very boring and insignificant. I considered it such a dry read that I actually skipped it in tonight reading. But God thought this genealogy to be so important that it is recored not only in Nehemiah Chapter 7, but also in Ezra Chapter 2. This is because here are some very serious spiritual lessons shown here. I would like to close by discussing 2 of them.

1. Make your calling and election sure
 - a. ⁶¹“The following went up from Tel-Melach, Tel-Harsha, K’ruv, Adon and Immer; but they could not state which fathers’ clan they and their children belonged to, [so it was not clear] whether they were from Isra’el:
 - b. ⁶⁴“These tried to locate their genealogical records, but they weren’t found. Therefore they were considered defiled and were not allowed to serve as cohanim. ⁶⁵The Tirshata told them not to eat any of the especially holy food until a cohen appeared who could consult the urim and tumim.
 - c. We, too, do well to remember that necessary as bricks and mortar or organizational structures may be, Christ’s Church is neither founded on nor

maintained by these alone; it is they who have experienced the grace of God for themselves who become members of Christ's bride, the new Jerusalem".

2. While death and hell will be cast into the lake of fire, a redeemed Israel and the Gentle Saints will possess the Holy City, New Jerusalem.
 - a. Despite what we often hear about the identity of the bride of Christ as being the Church, in fact the bride of Christ is the New Jerusalem consisting of the redeemed city inhabited by its redeemed people. The city and the people cannot be separated; they are spoken of as a unit, an entity.
 - b. Revelation 19:7-8 CJB 7 "Let us rejoice and be glad! Let us give him the glory! For the time has come for the wedding of the Lamb, and his Bride has prepared herself- 8 fine linen, bright and clean has been given her to wear." CJB Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had passed away, and the sea was no longer there. 2 Also I saw the holy city, New Yerushalayim, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.
 - c. Revelation 21:9-10 CJB 9 One of the seven angels having the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues approached me and said, "Come! I will show you the Bride, the Wife of the Lamb." 10 He carried me off in the Spirit to the top of a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city, Yerushalayim, coming down out of heaven from God.

New Jerusalem is Christ's bride. The organic connection between Israel, Jerusalem, the Redeemed and Yeshua's bride couldn't be stronger. And this is why we must, together, continue to work to realize our Hebrew faith roots, comfort Israel, learn about the Torah and the entire Word of God, and to inspire those of the Christian and Jewish community who currently are oblivious to this connection to open their eyes.



➤ Organic connection between Israel, Jerusalem, the Redeemed, and Yeshua's Bride 11

(Content adapted from A Study of Nehemiah by Tom Bradford)