
NEHEMIAH 7: 1 Now when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the porters and the singers and the Levites were appointed,

Nehemiah makes use of proper precautions in guarding the city gates, Neh 7:1-4. He proposes to reckon the people according to their genealogies; and finds a register of those who came out of Babylon, with Zerubbabel, Neh 7:5-7. A transcript of the register, vv. 8-60. Account of those who came from other provinces; and of priests who, because they could not show their register, were put away from the priesthood as polluted, Neh 7:61-65. The sum total of the congregation: of their men-servants and maid-servants; singing men and women; horses, mules, camels, and asses, Neh 7:66-69. The sums given by different persons for the work, Neh 7:70-72. All betake themselves to their several cities, Neh 7:73.

NEHEMIAH 7: 2 I put my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the governor of the castle, in charge of Jerusalem; for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.

Verse 2

My brother Hanani - This was the person who gave Nehemiah the account of the desolate state of the Jews, Neh 1:2. He is now made ruler of Jerusalem, probably because Nehemiah was about to return to the Persian court. And he found this man to be one in whom he could trust:

1. Because he was a faithful man - one who had a proper belief in God, his government, and his protection; and being devoted to the interests of his people, would be faithful in the discharge of his office.
 2. Because he feared God above many - was the most religious person in the congregation; would govern according to the laws; would take care of the interests of pure religion; would not oppress, take bribes, nor abuse his authority; but act in all things as one who had the fear of God continually before his eyes. These are the proper qualifications of a governor.
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NEHEMIAH 7: 3 I said to them, "Don't let the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot; and while they stand guard, let them shut the doors, and you bar them: and appoint watches of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, everyone in his watch, with everyone near his house."

Verse 3

Until the sun be hot - The meaning of this is, the gates were not to be opened before sunrise, and always shut at sunset. This is the custom to the present day in many of the cities of the East if a traveler arrives after sunset, he finds the gates shut; and on no consideration will they open them till the next morning, so that those who come late are obliged to lodge in the plain, or under the walls.

Every one - over against his house - Each was obliged to guard that part of the wall that was opposite to his own dwelling.

NEHEMIAH 7: 4 Now the city was wide and large; but the people were few therein, and the houses were not built.

Verse 4

The houses were not builded - The city was not yet rebuilt, only a row of houses in the inside of the wall all round.

NEHEMIAH 7: 5 My God put into my heart to gather together the nobles, and the rulers, and the people, that they might be reckoned by genealogy. I found the book of the genealogy of those who came up at the first, and I found written therein:

Verse 5

God put into mine heart - With this good man every good thing was of God. If he purposed any good, it was because God put it into his heart; if he did any good, it was because the good hand of his God was upon him; if he expected any good, it was because he earnestly prayed God to remember him for good. Thus, in all his ways he acknowledged God, and God directed all his steps.

NEHEMIAH 7: 6 These are the children of the province, who went up out of the captivity of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and who returned to Jerusalem and to Judah, everyone to his city;

NEHEMIAH 7: 7 who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

Verse 7

Who came with Zerubbabel - The register which he found was that of the persons only who came long before Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Joshua the son of Josedek, which register could not answer in every respect to the state of the people then. Several persons and families were no doubt dead, and others had arrived since. Nehemiah probably altered it only in such parts, leaving the body of it as it was before; and this will account for the difference between it and the register that is found in Ezra, chap. 2.

NEHEMIAH 7: 8 The children of Parosh, two thousand one hundred seventy-two.

Verse 8

The children of Parosh - As this chapter is almost entirely the same with the second chapter of the book of Ezra, it is not necessary to add any thing to what is said there; and to that chapter, and the accompanying notes, the reader is requested to refer.

NEHEMIAH 7: 9 The children of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy-two.

NEHEMIAH 7: 10 The children of Arah, six hundred fifty-two.

NEHEMIAH 7: 11 The children of Pahathmoab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred eighteen.

NEHEMIAH 7: 12 The children of Elam, one thousand two hundred fifty-four.

NEHEMIAH 7: 13 The children of Zattu, eight hundred forty-five.

NEHEMIAH 7: 14 The children of Zaccai, seven hundred sixty.

NEHEMIAH 7: 15 The children of Binnui, six hundred forty-eight.

NEHEMIAH 7: 16 The children of Bebai, six hundred twenty-eight.

NEHEMIAH 7: 17 The children of Azgad, two thousand three hundred twenty-two.

NEHEMIAH 7: 18 The children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty-seven.

NEHEMIAH 7: 19 The children of Bigvai, two thousand sixty-seven.

Verse 19

The children of Bigval, two thousand threescore and seven - Some MSS. read two thousand and sixty-six, as in Ezr 2:14.

NEHEMIAH 7: 20 The children of Adin, six hundred fifty-five.

NEHEMIAH 7: 21 The children of Ater, of Hezekiah, ninety-eight.

NEHEMIAH 7: 22 The children of Hashum, three hundred Twenty-eight.

NEHEMIAH 7: 23 The children of Bezai, three hundred twenty-four.

NEHEMIAH 7: 24 The children of Hariph, one hundred twelve.

NEHEMIAH 7: 25 The children of Gibeon, ninety-five.

NEHEMIAH 7: 26 The men of Bethlehem and Netophah, one hundred eighty-eight.

NEHEMIAH 7: 27 The men of Anathoth, one hundred twenty-eight.

NEHEMIAH 7: 28 The men of Beth Azmaveth, forty-two.

NEHEMIAH 7: 29 The men of Kiriath Jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred forty-three.

NEHEMIAH 7: 30 The men of Ramah and Geba, six hundred twenty-one.

NEHEMIAH 7: 31 The men of Michmas, one hundred and twenty-two.

NEHEMIAH 7: 32 The men of Bethel and Ai, a hundred twenty-three.

NEHEMIAH 7: 33 The men of the other Nebo, fifty-two.

Verse 33

The men of the other Nebo - The word other is not in the parallel place, Ezr 2:29, and is wanting in many of Kennicott's and De Rossi's MSS. This Nebo is supposed to be the same as Nob or Nobah, in the tribe of Benjamin.

NEHEMIAH 7: 34 The children of the other Elam, one thousand two hundred fifty-four.

Verse 34

The other Elam - To distinguish him from the Elam mentioned Neh 7:12.

NEHEMIAH 7: 35 The children of Harim, three hundred twenty.

NEHEMIAH 7: 36 The children of Jericho, three hundred forty-five.

NEHEMIAH 7: 37 The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty-one.

NEHEMIAH 7: 38 The children of Senaah, three thousand nine hundred thirty.

NEHEMIAH 7: 39 The priests: The children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy-three.

NEHEMIAH 7: 40 The children of Immer, one thousand fifty-two.

NEHEMIAH 7: 41 The children of Pashhur, one thousand two hundred forty-seven.

NEHEMIAH 7: 42 The children of Harim, one thousand seventeen.

NEHEMIAH 7: 43 The Levites: the children of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, of the children of Hodevah, seventy-four.

NEHEMIAH 7: 44 The singers: the children of Asaph, one hundred forty-eight.

NEHEMIAH 7: 45 The porters: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai, one hundred thirty-eight.

NEHEMIAH 7: 46 The Nethinim: the children of Ziha, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaoth,

NEHEMIAH 7: 47 the children of Keros, the children of Sia, the children of Padon,

NEHEMIAH 7: 48 the children of Lebana, the children of Hagaba, the children of Salmal,

NEHEMIAH 7: 49 the children of Hanan, the children of Giddel, the children of Gahar,

NEHEMIAH 7: 50 the children of Reaiah, the children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda,

NEHEMIAH 7: 51 the children of Gazzam, the children of Uzza, the children of Paseah.

NEHEMIAH 7: 52 The children of Besai, the children of Meunim, the children of Nephushesim,

NEHEMIAH 7: 53 the children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur,

NEHEMIAH 7: 54 the children of Bazlith, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha,

Verse 54

The children of Mehida - Many of Kennicott's and De Rossi's MSS., have Mehira.

NEHEMIAH 7: 55 the children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Temah,

NEHEMIAH 7: 56 the children of Neziah, the children of Hatipha.

NEHEMIAH 7: 57 The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Perida,

NEHEMIAH 7: 58 the children of Jaala, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel,

NEHEMIAH 7: 59 the children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth Hazzebaim, the children of Amon.

NEHEMIAH 7: 60 All the Nethinim, and the children of Solomon's servants, were three hundred ninety-two.

NEHEMIAH 7: 61 These were those who went up from Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer; but they could not show their fathers' houses, nor their seed, whether they were of Israel:

NEHEMIAH 7: 62 The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred forty-two.

NEHEMIAH 7: 63 Of the priests: the children of Hobaiah, the children of Hakkoz, the children of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name.

NEHEMIAH 7: 64 These searched for their genealogical records, but couldn't find them. Therefore were they deemed polluted and put from the priesthood.

NEHEMIAH 7: 65 The governor said to them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, until there stood up a priest with Urim and Thummim.

NEHEMIAH 7: 66 The whole assembly together was forty-two thousand three hundred sixty,

NEHEMIAH 7: 67 besides their male servants and their female servants, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty-seven: and they had two hundred forty-five singing men and singing women.

NEHEMIAH 7: 68 Their horses were seven hundred thirty-six; their mules, two hundred forty-five;

Verse 68

Their horses, etc. - The whole of this verse is wanting in fifty of Kennicott's MSS., and in twenty-nine of those of De Rossi, in the edition of Rab. Chayim, 1525, in the Roman Edit. of the Septuagint; also in the Syriac and in the Arabic. It should however be observed, that the Arabic omits the whole list, having nothing of the chapter but the first five verses. The whole is found in the parallel place, Ezr 2:66. Calmet's note on this passage is incorrect.

NEHEMIAH 7: 69 their camels, four hundred thirty-five; their donkeys, six thousand seven hundred twenty.

Verse 69

Their camels, four hundred thirty and five - After this verse St.

Jerome has inserted the following words in the Vulgate: -

Hucusque refertur quid in commentario scriptum fuerit; exin Nehemiae historia textitur. "Thus far do the words extend which were written in the register; what follows belongs to the history of Nehemiah."

But this addition is not found either in the Hebrew or any of the ancient versions. It is wanting also in the Complutum and Paris Polyglots, but is in the Editio Prima of the Vulgate.

NEHEMIAH 7: 70 Some from among the heads of fathers' households gave to the work. The governor gave to the treasury one thousand darics of gold, fifty basins, and five hundred thirty priests' garments.

Verse 70

The Tirshatha gave - The Septuagint, particularly the copy in the Codex Alexandrinus, intimates that this sum was given to the Tirshatha, or Nehemiah: Καὶ τῷ Ἀθηρσαθᾶ ἔδωκαν εἰς θησαυρον, And to the Athersatha they gave for the treasure, etc.

For the meaning of the word Tirshatha, see on Ezr 2:63 (note).

NEHEMIAH 7: 71 Some of the heads of fathers' households gave into the treasury of the work twenty thousand darics of gold, and two thousand two hundred minas of silver.

Verse 71

Two thousand and two hundred pounds - The Septuagint has two thousand Three hundred minae of silver.

NEHEMIAH 7: 72 That which the rest of the people gave was twenty thousand darics of gold, and two thousand minas of silver, and sixty-seven priests' garments.

NEHEMIAH 7: 73 So the priests, and the Levites, and the porters, and the singers, and some of the people, and the Nethinim, and all Israel, lived in their cities. When the seventh month had come, the children of Israel were in their cities.

Verse 73

All Israel, dwelt in their cities - It was in reference to this particularly that the public registers were examined; for by them they found the different families, and consequently the cities, villages, etc., which belonged to them, according to the ancient division of the lands. It seems that the examination of the registers occupied about a month; for as soon as the walls were finished, which was in the sixth month, (Elul), Neh 6:15, Nehemiah instituted the examination mentioned in this chapter, Neh 7:5; and by the concluding verse we find that the different families had got into their paternal cities in the seventh month, Tisri, answering to a part of our September and October. Thus the register determined every thing: there was no room for complaint, and none to accuse the governor of partiality.