

NEHEMIAH 11: 1 The princes of the people lived in Jerusalem: the rest of the people also cast lots, to bring one of ten to dwell in Jerusalem the holy city, and nine parts in the other cities.

Lots are cast that a tenth of the people may constantly dwell at Jerusalem, and the other nine parts in the other cities and villages, Neh 11:1. Some willingly offer themselves to dwell in Jerusalem, and the people bless them, Neh 11:2. An enumeration of the families that dwell in Jerusalem, of Judah, and Benjamin, Neh 11:3-9; of those of the priests, Neh 11:10-12; of the chiefs of the fathers, Neh 11:13; of the mighty men, Neh 11:14; of the Levites, Neh 11:15-18; of the porters, Neh 11:19; of the residue of Israel and the officers, Neh 11:20-24. The villages at which they dwelt, Neh 11:25-35. Certain divisions of the Levites were in Judah and Benjamin, Neh 11:36.

Verse 1

To bring one of ten - Jerusalem certainly had many inhabitants at this time; but not sufficient to preserve the city, which was now encompassed with a wall, and the rebuilding of which was going on fast. Nehemiah therefore obliged one tenth of the country people to come and dwell in it, that the population might be sufficient for the preservation and defense of the city. Ten were set apart, and the lot cast among them to see which one of the ten should take up his residence in the city.

NEHEMIAH 11: 2 The people blessed all the men who willingly offered themselves to dwell in Jerusalem.

Verse 2

All the men that willingly offered - Some volunteered their services, which was considered a sacrifice to patriotism at that time, as Jerusalem afforded very few advantages, and was a place of considerable danger; hence the people spoke well of them, and no doubt prayed for God's blessing upon them.

NEHEMIAH 11: 3 Now these are the chiefs of the province who lived in Jerusalem; but in the cities of Judah everyone lived in his possession in their cities: Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the Nethinim, and the children of Solomon's servants.

Verse 3

Now these are the chief - A good deal of difference will be found between the enumeration here and that in 1Chr 9:2, etc. There, those only who came with Zerubbabel appear to be numbered; here, those, and the persons who came with Ezra and Nehemiah, enter into the account.

NEHEMIAH 11: 4 In Jerusalem lived certain of the children of Judah, and of the children of Benjamin. Of the children of Judah: Athaiah the son of Uzziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalalel, of the children of Perez;

NEHEMIAH 11: 5 and Maaseiah the son of Baruch, the son of Colhozeh, the son of Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, the son of the Shilonite.

NEHEMIAH 11: 6 All the sons of Perez who lived in Jerusalem were four hundred sixty-eight valiant men.

NEHEMIAH 11: 7 These are the sons of Benjamin: Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Joed, the son of Pedaiah, the son of Kolaiah, the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ithiel, the son of Jeshaiiah.

NEHEMIAH 11: 8 After him Gabbai, Sallai, nine hundred twenty-eight.

NEHEMIAH 11: 9 Joel the son of Zichri was their overseer; and Judah the son of Hassenuah was second over the city.

Verse 9

And Joel - was their overseer - Joel was chief or magistrate over those, and Judah was his second or deputy. Perhaps each had a different office, but that of Joel was the chief.

NEHEMIAH 11: 10 Of the priests: Jedaiah the son of Joiarib, Jachin,

NEHEMIAH 11: 11 Seraiah the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, the ruler of God's house,

Verse 11

Ruler of the house of God - He had the command over all secular matters, as the high priest had over those which were spiritual.

NEHEMIAH 11: 12 and their brothers who did the work of the house, eight hundred twenty-two; and Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pelaliah, the son of Amzi, the son of Zechariah, the son of Pashhur, the son of Malchijah,

NEHEMIAH 11: 13 and his brothers, chiefs of fathers' households, two hundred forty-two; and Amashsai the son of Azarel, the son of Ahzai, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer,

NEHEMIAH 11: 14 and their brothers, mighty men of valor, one hundred twenty-eight; and their overseer was Zabdiel, the son of Haggadolim.

Verse 14

Mighty men of valor - Noted for strength of body, and military courage.

NEHEMIAH 11: 15 Of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni;

NEHEMIAH 11: 16 and Shabbethai and Jozabad, of the chiefs of the Levites, who had the oversight of the outward business of God's house;

Verse 16

And Shabbethai - This verse, with Neh 11:20, Neh 11:21, Neh 11:28, Neh 11:29, Neh 11:32, Neh 11:33, Neh 11:34, and Neh 11:35, are all wanting in the Septuagint and the whole chapter is wanting in the Arabic, the translator not being concerned in Jewish genealogies.

The outward business - Calmet supposes that he provided the victuals for the priests, victims for the sacrifices, the sacerdotal vestments, the sacred vessels, and other necessaries for the service of the temple.

NEHEMIAH 11: 17 and Mattaniah the son of Mica, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, who was the chief to begin the thanksgiving in prayer, and Bakbukiah, the second among his brothers; and Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun.

Verse 17

The principal to begin the thanksgiving - The precentor, pitcher of the tune, or master-singer.

NEHEMIAH 11: 18 All the Levites in the holy city were two hundred eighty-four.

NEHEMIAH 11: 19 Moreover the porters, Akkub, Talmon, and their brothers, who kept watch at the gates, were one hundred seventy-two.

NEHEMIAH 11: 20 The residue of Israel, of the priests, the Levites, were in all the cities of Judah, everyone in his inheritance.

NEHEMIAH 11: 21 But the Nethinim lived in Ophel: and Ziha and Gishpa were over the Nethinim.

NEHEMIAH 11: 22 The overseer also of the Levites at Jerusalem was Uzzi the son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Mica, of the sons of Asaph, the singers, over the business of God's house.

Verse 22

The overseer also of the Levites - פקיד pekid, the visitant, the inspector; translated επισκοπος, bishop, both by the Septuagint and Vulgate.

NEHEMIAH 11: 23 For there was a commandment from the king concerning them, and a settled provision for the singers, as every day required.

Verse 23

It was the king's commandment - By the king some understand David, and others Artaxerxes. It is most probable that it was the latter; who wished that a provision should be made for these, a part of whose office was to offer up prayers also, as well as praises. For we know that Darius made an ample provision for the priests, that they might offer sacrifices of sweet savor unto the God of heaven; and pray for the life of the king and of his sons, Ezr 6:10. Some have thought that they had been Jewish singers employed in the service of the Persian king, to whom he had given a salary, and to whom he wished still to continue the same.

NEHEMIAH 11: 24 Pethahiah the son of Meshezabel, of the children of Zerah the son of Judah, was at the king's hand in all matters concerning the people.

Verse 24

Pethahiah - was at the king's hand - He was the governor appointed by the Persian king over the Jewish nation in those matters in which the civil government interfered with Jewish concerns. He no doubt fixed, levied, and received the tribute.

NEHEMIAH 11: 25 As for the villages, with their fields, some of the children of Judah lived in Kiriath Arba and its towns, and in Dibon and its towns, and in Jekabzeel and its villages,

NEHEMIAH 11: 26 and in Jeshua, and in Moladah, and Beth Pelet,

Verse 26

And at Jeshua - This city is nowhere else mentioned.

NEHEMIAH 11: 27 and in Hazar Shual, and in Beersheba and its towns,

NEHEMIAH 11: 28 and in Ziklag, and in Meconah and in its towns,

Verse 28

Mekonah - This city is also unknown.

NEHEMIAH 11: 29 and in En Rimmon, and in Zorah, and in Jarmuth,

NEHEMIAH 11: 30 Zanoah, Adullam, and their villages, Lachish and its fields, Azekah and its towns. So they encamped from Beersheba to the valley of Hinnom.

NEHEMIAH 11: 31 The children of Benjamin also lived from Geba onward, at Michmash and Aija, and at Bethel and its towns,

Verse 31

Geba - Probably the same as Gibeah of Saul.

NEHEMIAH 11: 32 at Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah,

Verse 32

Ananiah - No city of this name is known.

NEHEMIAH 11: 33 Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim,

Verse 33

Hadid - This place is also unknown.

Neballat - Also unknown.

NEHEMIAH 11: 34 Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat,

NEHEMIAH 11: 35 Lod, and Ono, the valley of craftsmen.

Verse 35

Lod, and Ono - These towns were built by the sons of Elpaal, 1Chr 8:12.

The valley of craftsmen - See 1Chr 4:14. Probably this latter town was built in this valley.

NEHEMIAH 11: 36 Of the Levites, certain divisions in Judah settled in Benjamin's territory.

Verse 36

And of the Levites were divisions - The Levites had their dwellings in the divisions of Judah and Benjamin. This is probably the meaning: the Syriac says, They had the half of Judah and Benjamin; which is not likely.

That the people whose hearts were now turned towards the Lord, would make the best provision for the support of God's work, and all those engaged in it, we may naturally suppose; but this could

not be very great, as the complete service was not yet established, and the Levites themselves were few in number.