

DASV: Nehemiah**DASV: Nehemiah 1**

¹ The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now in the month Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in the citadel of Susa,

² one of my brothers, Hanani came along with certain men from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had survived, having escaped the exile, and about Jerusalem.

³ They told me, "The remnant who survived the exile in the province are in great trouble and humiliation. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."

⁴ When I heard these words, I sat down and wept, and mourned for days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

⁵ I prayed, "O LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer of your servant that I am now praying before you both day and night for the Israelites your servants. I confess the sins of the people of Israel that we have sinned against you. Yes, both I and my family have sinned.

⁷ We have acted very corruptly against you, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, or the regulations you commanded your servant Moses.

⁸ Please remember the word you told your servant Moses, 'If you trespass, I will scatter you among the nations,

⁹ but if you return to me, and keep my commandments and do them, even though your exiles are scattered to the most distant places under the heavens, yet even from there will I gather them, and will bring them back to the place where I have chosen, to make my name to dwell.'

¹⁰ Now these are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and strong hand.

¹¹ O Lord, please let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name. Please, give your servant success today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." Now I was cupbearer to the king.

DASV: Nehemiah 2

¹ Now in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought to him, I picked up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never before been sad in his presence.

² The king asked me, "Why is your face so sad, when you aren't sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart." Then I was very afraid.

³ I replied to the king, "May the king live forever. Why shouldn't my face be sad, when the city where my forefathers are buried is in ruins and its gates destroyed by fire?"

⁴ Then the king asked me, "What would you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven.

⁵ Then I answered the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I request that you send me to Judah, to the city of my forefathers' tombs so that I may rebuild it."

⁶ The king said to me with the queen sitting by him, "How long will your journey take and when will you be coming back?" After I had set a date, it pleased the king to send me.

⁷ I also asked the king, "If it pleases the king, let him give me letters for the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, that they may grant me safe passage until I reach Judah.

⁸ May I also have a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may provide me with timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress adjacent to the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I will live in." So the king granted my requests, for the gracious hand of my God was on me.

⁹ Then I came to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me army officers and horsemen.

¹⁰ When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about it, they were very displeased that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.

¹¹ So I arrived at Jerusalem, and was there three days.

¹² I got up during the night, I and some others with me. I did not tell anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no animals with me, except the one I was riding on.

¹³ I went out by night through the Valley Gate, even toward the Dragon's Well and the Dung Gate, and inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire.

¹⁴ Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal that was under me to pass.

¹⁵ Then I went up in the night by the valley, and inspected the wall. I turned back and entered, returning by way of the Valley Gate.

¹⁶ The officials did not know where I went, or what I was doing; for I had still not told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the rulers, or the rest who were going to do the work.

¹⁷ Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates are burned with fire. Come, and let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we will no longer suffer humiliation."

¹⁸ I told them how the hand of my God had been gracious to me, and also the words the king had spoken to me. They affirmed, "Let us rise up and rebuild." So they committed their hands to this good work.

¹⁹ But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arabian heard it, they laughed at us and despised us, and asked, "What do you think you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?"

²⁰ Then I answered them saying, "The God of heaven will give us success, therefore we, his servants, should arise and rebuild. But you have no share, right or historic claim on Jerusalem."

DASV: Nehemiah 3

¹ Then Eliashib the high priest along with his fellow priests set to work on rebuilding the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set up its doors, rebuilding as far as the Tower of the Hundred and the Tower of Hananel.

² Next to him the men of Jericho built, and next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

³ The sons of Hassenaah rebuilt the Fish Gate. They laid its beams and set up its doors with its bolts and bars.

⁴ Next to them Meremoth the son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz made repairs. Next to them Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabel made repairs. Next to them Zadok the son of Baana made repairs.

⁵ Next to them the people of Tekoa made repairs, but their town leaders would not work under their supervisors.

⁶ The Old Gate was repaired by Joiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams and set up its doors, with its bolts and bars.

⁷ Next to them Melatiah the Gibeonite, Jadon the Meronothite along with the men of Gibeon and Mizpah made repairs, from towns under the jurisdiction of the governor of the province west of the Euphrates River.

⁸ Next to him Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, a goldsmith made repairs. Next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs; and they renovated Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.

⁹ Next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, the ruler of half the district of Jerusalem made repairs.

¹⁰ Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph, made repairs across from his house. Next to him Hattush the son of Hashabneiah made repairs.

¹¹ Malchijah the son of Harim and Hasshub the son of Pahath-moab, repaired another section of the wall and the Tower of the Ovens.

¹² Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, the ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, with the aid of his daughters made repairs.

¹³ The Valley Gate was repaired by Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah. They rebuilt it and set up its doors with its bolts and bars. They repaired 1,500 feet of the wall all the way to the Dung Gate.

¹⁴ The Dung Gate was repaired by Malchijah the son of Rechab, the ruler of the district of Beth-haccherem. He rebuilt it and set up its doors with its bolts and bars.

¹⁵ The Fountain Gate was repaired by Shallun the son of Col-hozeh, the ruler of the district of Mizpah. He rebuilt it, put a roof on it, and set up its doors with its bolts and bars. He also repaired the wall of the Pool of Siloam by the king's garden, as far as the stairs that go down from the City of David.

¹⁶ After him, Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, the ruler of half the district of Beth-zur made repairs across from the tombs of David as far as the artificial pool and on to the House of the Warriors.

¹⁷ After him, the Levites made repairs under Rehum the son of Bani. Next to him, Hashabiah, the ruler of half the district of Keilah, made repairs for his district.

¹⁸ After him, their relatives under Bavvai the son of Henadad, the ruler of half the district of Keilah made repairs.

¹⁹ Next to him, Ezer the son of Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah made repairs to another section of the wall across from the ascent to the armory where the wall angles.

²⁰ After him, Baruch the son of Zabbai worked hard on repairing another section of the wall, from where the wall angles to the door of the house of the high priest Eliashib.

²¹ After him, Meremoth the son of Uriah the son of Hakkoz repaired another section from the door of the house of Eliashib to the end of the house.

²² After him, the priests and the men of the surrounding area made repairs.

²³ After them, Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs across from their house. After them, Azariah the son of Maaseiah the son of Ananiah made repairs beside his own house.

²⁴ After him, Binnui the son of Henadad made repairs on another section, from the house of Azariah to the turning angle and corner of the wall.

²⁵ Palal the son of Uzai worked across from the angle of the wall and the tower that projects out from the king's upper house, which is by the court of the guard. After him, Pedaiah the son of Parosh

²⁶ and the temple servants who live on Ophel made repairs to the place across from the Water Gate on the east and the projecting tower.

²⁷ After him, the people of Tekoa repaired another section, across from the great projecting tower as far as the wall of Ophel.

²⁸ Above the Horse Gate the priests made repairs, each one across from his own house.

²⁹ After them, Zadok the son of Immer made repairs across from his own house. After him, Shemaiah the son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the East Gate made repairs.

³⁰ After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph repaired another portion. After him, Meshullam the son of Berechiah made repairs across from his living quarters.

³¹ After him, Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the temple servants and the merchants, across from the Inspection Gate, and on to the room above the corner.

³² Between the room above the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and the merchants did their repair work.

DASV: Nehemiah 4

¹ Now when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and furious, and mocked the Jews.

² He said in front of his brothers and the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they repair their wall? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish it in a day? Can they bring back to life the burnt stones pulled out of the rubbish heaps?"

³ Tobiah the Ammonite who was beside him, observed, "That stone wall they are building would collapse if even a fox would scamper up it."

⁴ I prayed, "Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their ridicule on their own head, and give them up as plunder carried off to a land of captivity.

⁵ Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out of your sight, for they have hurled insults in the face of the builders."

⁶ So we rebuilt the wall and all the wall was joined together up to half of its full height, for the people were determined to work.

⁷ But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabians, the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem was progressing, and that the gaps began to be closed, they were furious.

⁸ So they all conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem, and to cause chaos.

⁹ But we made our prayer to our God, and stationed a guard to protect against them day and night.

¹⁰ The people of Judah complained, "The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to rebuild the wall."

¹¹ Our adversaries claimed, "They will not know or see anything, we will infiltrate and kill them, and stop this work."

¹² When the Jews who lived near them came, they warned us ten times over, "They will attack us from every direction."

¹³ Therefore they posted people with their swords, spears and bows by the lowest places behind the wall, in the exposed places.

¹⁴ I inspected the work, and said to the nobles, rulers and the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your homes."

¹⁵ When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot, and God had frustrated their plans, we all returned to the wall, every one to his own work.

¹⁶ From that time on, half of my workers actually worked, and the other half stood guard with spears, shields, bows and the coats of mail. The leaders stationed themselves behind all the people of Judah

¹⁷ who were building the wall. Those who hauled the loads worked with one hand and with the other they held a weapon.

¹⁸ Every one of the builders had his sword strapped to his side while he built. The trumpeter stayed by me.

¹⁹ Then I said to the nobles, rulers and the rest of the people, "The work is extensive and spread out, and we are separated far from each other on the wall.

²⁰ Whenever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us at that point. Our God will fight for us."

²¹ So we labored at the work with half of them holding the spears from sunrise until the stars came out.

²² I also told the people at that time, "Let every man with his servant spend the night inside Jerusalem, so that they may help us with guard duty by night and as workers by day."

²³ So we did not even change clothes; I, my brothers, my servants or the men of the guard who followed me. Each one carried his weapon even when they went for a drink.

DASV: Nehemiah 5

¹ Then there arose a great cry from the people and their wives against their fellow Jews.

² There were some who complained, "We are many with our sons and our daughters. Let us have grain that we may eat and stay alive."

³ Others were saying, "We had to mortgage our fields, our vineyards and our houses to get grain during the famine."

⁴ Then still others said, "We have had to borrow money to pay the king's tax on our fields and vineyards.

⁵ Even though we are the same flesh and blood as our brothers, and our children are just like their children, yet we had to sell our sons and our daughters into slavery just to live. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved and we are helpless to do anything about it because our fields and our vineyards belong to someone else."

⁶ When I heard their complaint and these words, I was very angry.

⁷ After thinking it over, I brought charges against the nobles and officials, and said to them, "You are charging interest to your fellow countrymen." So I called for a great assembly against them.

⁸ I said to them, "To the best of our ability we have bought back our fellow Jews who had been sold to the Gentiles, but you are selling your own kin, so that we must turn around and buy them back?" They were absolutely silent having nothing to say.

⁹ I continued, "What you are doing is not good. Shouldn't you walk in the fear of our God, in order to avoid making ourselves a laughing stock among our Gentile enemies?"

¹⁰ I myself, my brothers and my workers, will lend them money and grain. Stop charging interest.

¹¹ Give them back their fields, vineyards, olive groves and their houses this very day.

Repay the interest you charged on the grain, new wine and olive oil."

¹² Then they replied, "We will pay them back, and will not require anything from them. We will do as you have told us to." Then I called the priests, and made them take an oath that they would do what they had promised.

¹³ I also shook out the folds in my garment, and said, "Just as empty as this garment may God shake out every man from his house and property, who does not keep this promise." Then all the assembly said, "Amen," and praised the LORD. Then the people did just as they had promised.

¹⁴ From the time I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, that is, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes, twelve years, neither I nor my officials ate from the governor's food allowance.

¹⁵ But the former governors before me laid heavy burdens on the people, and took food and wine from them, besides forty shekels of silver. Yes, even their servants lorded it over the people. Because of the fear of God I could not behave that way.

¹⁶ I devoted myself to the work on this wall, not even buying any land for ourselves and all my servants were gathered there for the work.

¹⁷ There were at my table, 150 men from the Jews and the officials, besides those who came from among the nations around us.

¹⁸ Now the daily provisions for me were one ox, six choice sheep and birds and every ten days all sorts of wine was brought. Yet for all this, I did not demand the governor's food allowance because the work load was already heavy on this people.

¹⁹ Remember me for good, O my God, for all that I have done for this people.

DASV: Nehemiah 6

¹ Now when it was reported to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arabian and to the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall, and that there was no breach left in it, even though at that time I had not set up the doors in the gates,

² that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together in one of the villages in the plain of Ono." But they were intending to harm me.

³ So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it to come down to you?"

⁴ They sent to me four times in this way and I answered them the same way each time.

⁵ Then Sanballat sent his servant to me the same way the fifth time with an open letter in his hand.

⁶ In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Geshem confirms it, that you and the Jews are planning to rebel which is why you are rebuilding the wall. According to this report you are wanting to be their king.

⁷ You have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you at Jerusalem, saying, 'There is a king in Judah.' Now this report will certainly get back to the king. So come and let us talk it over."

⁸ Then I sent to him, saying, "There are no such things happening as you claim, but you are making it up in your own head."

⁹ They were attempting to scare us, saying, "Their hands will be weakened from the work, so that it won't get done." I prayed, "But now, O God, strengthen my hands."

¹⁰ Now when I went to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabel, who was confined to his home, he said, "Let us meet together in the temple of God, within the temple itself, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you. Yes, tonight they are coming to kill you."

¹¹ But I replied, "Should a man like me run away? Would someone like me enter the temple to save his life? I will not go."

¹² I realized that God had not sent him, for he had pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

¹³ He was hired to intimidate me and make me sin, so that they might have an evil report with which to discredit me.

¹⁴ Remember, O my God, Tobiah and Sanballat what they have done, and also the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets who were attempting to scare me.

¹⁵ So the wall was finished in the twenty-fifth day of the month of Elul, in fifty-two days.

¹⁶ When all our enemies heard about it, all the nations that surrounded us were afraid and discouraged in their own eyes, for they were well aware that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

¹⁷ In those days, the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and letters from Tobiah came to them.

¹⁸ For there were many in Judah who had sworn allegiance to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah the son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berekiah.

¹⁹ They also told me of his good deeds, and reported my words back to him. But Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

DASV: Nehemiah 7

¹ Now after the wall had been built, and I had set up the doors, the gatekeepers, and singers and the Levites were appointed.

² I put my brother Hanani and Hananiah the commander of the citadel in charge over Jerusalem, for he was a faithful man and feared God more than most do.

³ I ordered them, "Do not open the gates of Jerusalem until the sun is hot, and even when they stand guard, keep the doors shut and barred. Appoint guards from the inhabitants of Jerusalem, some at their guard posts and some near their homes."

⁴ Now the city was wide and large, but the people in it were few and the houses had not been rebuilt.

⁵ Then my God put into my heart to gather the nobles, officials, and the people to be registered by genealogy. I found the genealogical records of those who had first come back. Here is what I found written in it:

⁶ These are the people of the province, who returned from the captivity of those exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon deported, and who had returned to Jerusalem and to Judah, each one to his own town.

⁷ They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum and Baanah.

The number of the men of Israel was:

- ⁸ the descendants of Parosh, 2,172;
- ⁹ the descendants of Shephatiah, 372;
- ¹⁰ the descendants of Arah, 652;
- ¹¹ the descendants of Pahath-moab, from the line of Jeshua and Joab, 2,818;
- ¹² the descendants of Elam, 1,254;
- ¹³ the descendants of Zattu, 845;
- ¹⁴ the descendants of Zaccai, 760;
- ¹⁵ the descendants of Binnui, 648;
- ¹⁶ the descendants of Bebai, 628;
- ¹⁷ the descendants of Azgad, 2,322;
- ¹⁸ the descendants of Adonikam, 667;
- ¹⁹ the descendants of Bigvai, 2,067;
- ²⁰ the descendants of Adin, 655;
- ²¹ the descendants of Ater, from Hezekiah, 98;
- ²² the descendants of Hashum, 328;
- ²³ the descendants of Bezai, 324;
- ²⁴ the descendants of Hariph, 112;
- ²⁵ the descendants of Gibeon, 95;
- ²⁶ the men of Bethlehem and Netophah, 188;
- ²⁷ the men of Anathoth, 128;
- ²⁸ the men of Beth-azmaveth, 42;

29 the men of Kiriath-jearim, Kephirah, and Beeroth, 743;
 30 the men of Ramah and Geba, 621;
 31 the men of Michmas, 122;
 32 the men of Bethel and Ai, 123;
 33 the men of the other Nebo, 52;
 34 the descendants of the other Elam, 1,254;
 35 the descendants of Harim, 320;
 36 the descendants of Jericho, 345;
 37 the descendants of Lod, Hadid and Ono, 721;
 38 the descendants of Senaah, 3,930.

39 The priests:
 the descendants of Jedaiah from the family of Jeshua, 973;
 40 the descendants of Immer, 1,052;
 41 the descendants of Pashhur, 1,247;
 42 the descendants of Harim, 1,017.

43 The Levites:
 the descendants of Jeshua through Kadmiel, from the line of Hodevah, 74.

44 The singers:
 the descendants of Asaph, 148.

45 The gatekeepers:
 the descendants of
 Shallum, Ater, Talmon, Akkub, Hatita, Shobai, 138.

46 The temple servants:
 the descendants of
 Ziha, Hasupha, Tabbaoth,
 47 Keros, Sia, Padon,
 48 Lebana, Hagaba, Salmi,
 49 Hanan, Giddel, Gahar,
 50 Reaiah, Rezin, Nekoda,
 51 Gazzam, Uzza, Paseah.
 52 Besai, Meunim, Nephushesim,
 53 Bakbuk, Hakupha, Harhur,
 54 Bazlith, Mehida, Harsha,
 55 Barkos, Sisera, Temah,
 56 Neziah and Hatipha.

57 The descendants of Solomon's servants:
 Sotai, Sophereth, Perida,

- 58 Jaala, Darkon, Giddel,
59 Shephatiah, Hattil, Pochereth-hazzebaim and Amon.
60 All the temple servants, and the descendants of Solomon's servants, were 392.
- 61 These were those who returned from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Kerub, Addon and Immer; but they could not verify their fathers' houses or their descent whether they did in fact belong to Israel:
62 The descendants of Delaiah, Tobiah, and Nekoda, 642.
- 63 From the priests:
the descendants of Hobaiah, Hakkoz and Barzillai, who married a wife from the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called by their name.
64 These searched their registry in the genealogical records, but they could not be found. Therefore they were excluded from the priesthood as unclean.
65 The governor told them, not to eat of the most holy food, until there was a priest who could use the Urim and Thummim.
66 The entire assembly totaled 42,360,
67 not including their 7,337 male and female servants and 245 male and female singers.
68 They had 736 horses, 245 mules,
69 435 camels and 6,720 donkeys.
- 70 Some of the family leaders contributed to the work. The governor gave to the treasury 1,000 gold coins, 50 bowls, 530 priestly robes.
71 Some of the family leaders gave to the treasury for the work 20,000 gold coins and 2,750 pounds of silver.
72 The rest of the people gave 20,000 gold coins, 2,500 pounds of silver and 67 priestly robes.
73 So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants and all Israel lived in their own towns. When the seventh month came, the Israelites were settled in their towns.

DASV: Nehemiah 8

¹ All the people gathered together as one in the town square that was in front of the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel.

² Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand it, on the first day of the seventh month.

³ He read it facing the town square that was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women, and those who could understand. The ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

⁴ Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had built for this purpose. Beside him on the right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam.

⁵ Then Ezra opened the book in full view of all the people for he was standing above all of them. When he opened it, all the people stood up.

⁶ Ezra praised the LORD, the great God, and all the people responded, "Amen, Amen," lifting their hands. They bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, all of whom were Levites, helped the people understand the law, while the people stood in their places.

⁸ They read from the book the law of God, explaining and interpreting its meaning, so that they could understand what was read.

⁹ Nehemiah the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people, said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.

¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat rich food, and drink sweet drinks, and send portions of food to those who have nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve; for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

¹¹ So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy. Do not grieve."

¹² All the people went their way to eat, drink and to send portions of food, and to celebrate with great joy, because they had understood the words that were made known to them.

¹³ On the second day the family leaders of all the people, the priests and the Levites, met with Ezra the scribe, in order to give careful attention to the words of the law.

¹⁴ They found written in the law, how that the LORD had commanded by Moses that the Israelites should live in booths during the feast of the seventh month,

¹⁵ and that they should publish and proclaim in all their towns and in Jerusalem: "Go out to the hills, and gather branches of olive and wild olive trees, and myrtle, palm and other leafy trees, to make temporary huts, as it is written."

¹⁶ So the people went out and brought them back, and built booths for themselves, each on the roof of their houses, in their courts and in the courts of the temple of God, and in the town square by the Water Gate, and in the square by the Ephraim Gate.

¹⁷ All the assembly that had returned from captivity made booths, and lived in them. Since the days of Joshua the son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not done this. There was great joy.

¹⁸ Ezra read from the book of the law of God day after day, from the first day to the last. They celebrated the feast for seven days, then on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the requirement.

DASV: Nehemiah 9

¹ On the twenty-fourth day of this month, the Israelites were assembled with fasting, sackcloth and dust on their heads.

² The descendants of Israel separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their forefathers.

³ For a fourth of the day they stood up in their place, and read from the book of the law of the LORD their God; and for another fourth they confessed their sins and worshipped the LORD their God.

⁴ Then standing on the stairs were the Levites--Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Kenani--who cried out with a loud voice to the LORD their God.

⁵ Then the Levites--Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah--said, "Stand up and praise the LORD your God from everlasting to everlasting." Then they praised, "Blessed be your glorious name, may it be exalted above all blessing and praise.

⁶ You are the LORD, you alone. You made heaven, the highest heavens, with all their stars, the earth and all things that are in it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to them all, and the host of heaven worships you.

⁷ You are the LORD God, who chose Abram, and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans, and gave him the name of Abraham.

⁸ You found his heart to be faithful to you and made a covenant with him to give his descendants the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Jebusites and Gergashites. Now you have kept your promise for you are righteous.

⁹ You saw the affliction of our forefathers in Egypt, and heard their cry at the Red Sea.

¹⁰ You performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh, and against all his servants and all the people of his land, for you knew how arrogantly they acted against them. You made a reputation for yourself which has lasted to this day.

¹¹ You divided the sea before them, so that they crossed through the sea on the dry ground. But you threw their pursuers into the depths of the sea, like a stone sinks in mighty waters.

¹² You led them by day in a pillar of cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light in the way in which they should go.

¹³ You also came down on Mount Sinai, and spoke with them from heaven. You gave them just regulations, true laws, good statutes and commandments.

¹⁴ You made known to them your holy Sabbath, and prescribed commandments, statutes, and a law for them through Moses your servant.

¹⁵ You gave them bread from heaven when they were hungry, and brought water out of the rock when they were thirsty. You commanded them to go in to possess the land that you had sworn to give them.

¹⁶ But they, our forefathers, acted arrogantly and stiffened their stubborn necks, and would not obey your commandments.

¹⁷ They refused to obey, neither did they recall the wonders that you did among them. Instead they stiffened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a leader to return to their slavery. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in steadfast love. You did not abandon them,

¹⁸ even when they had cast an image of a calf for themselves, and declared, 'This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,' and had committed terrible blasphemies.

¹⁹ Yet you in your great compassion did not abandon them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud did not stop leading them by day, nor did the pillar of fire stop guiding them by night shining on the way they were to go.

²⁰ You gave your good Spirit to instruct them, and did not withhold your manna from their mouths and continued to give them water for their thirst.

²¹ For forty years you sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell.

²² You gave them kingdoms and peoples and granted them every corner of the land. So they took possession of the land of Sihon king of Heshbon, and the land of Og king of Bashan.

²³ You multiplied their children as the stars of heaven, and brought them into the land concerning which you told their forefathers to go in and possess it.

²⁴ So their descendants went in and possessed the land, and you subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites. You delivered them into their hands, along with their kings and the peoples of the land, that they might do with them whatever they pleased.

²⁵ They captured fortified cities and a fertile land. They took possession of houses full of all good things, cisterns already dug, vineyards, and olive groves, and fruit trees in abundance. So they ate and were filled and became fat delighting themselves in your great goodness.

²⁶ Nevertheless, they were disobedient and rebelled against you. They threw your law behind their backs, killed your prophets who warned them to turn back to you, and they committed terrible blasphemies.

²⁷ Therefore you delivered them into the hand of their enemies, who oppressed them. But in their time of trouble they cried out to you and you heard from heaven. Then according to your great compassion you gave them deliverers who saved them from the hand of their enemies.

²⁸ But as soon as they had rest, they did evil again before you. So you abandoned them again to the hand of their enemies, so that they ruled over them. Yet when they returned, and cried out to you, you heard from heaven and many times you rescued them because of your great compassion.

²⁹ You warned them attempting to turn them back to your law. Yet they acted arrogantly and did not obey your commandments, but sinned against your ordinances, those by which if a man does them he will live. Yet they turned their shoulder away and stiffened their neck and refused to obey.

³⁰ For many years you were patient with them, and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets, but they would not listen. Therefore you delivered them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.

³¹ Nevertheless in your great mercies you did not completely destroy them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

³² Now therefore, our God, the great, mighty and awesome God, who keeps his covenant and steadfast love, let it not seem insignificant to you all the hardship that has come on us, our kings, leaders, priests, prophets, forefathers, and on all your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria to this day.

³³ You have been just in all that has happened to us, for you have treated us faithfully even though we have acted wickedly.

³⁴ Our kings, leaders, priests, and forefathers have not kept your law, or paid attention to your commandments or your testimonies by which you warned them.

³⁵ For even while they were in their own kingdom, with your great goodness you had lavished on them, in the large and fertile land you gave them, they still did not serve you or turn from their wicked works.

³⁶ So now, here we are slaves this day, in a land you gave to our forefathers to eat its fruit and enjoy its good things, yet we are slaves.

³⁷ Its rich produce goes to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins. They rule over our bodies and over our cattle as they please, while we are in great distress."

³⁸ [The people affirmed,] "Because of all this we make a solemn covenant, written and signed with the seals of our leaders, Levites and our priests."

DASV: Nehemiah 10

¹ Now those who sealed it were: Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah and Zedekiah,

² These were the priests:

³ Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah,
⁴ Pashhur, Amariah, Malkijah,
⁵ Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch,
⁶ Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah,
⁷ Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch,
⁸ Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin,
 Maaziah, Bilgai and Shemaiah.

⁹ The Levites were: Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel.

¹⁰ and their fellow Levites:

¹¹ Shebaniah, Hodiah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan,
¹² Mica, Rehob, Hashabiah,
¹³ Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah,
 Hodiah, Bani, and Beninu.

¹⁴ The leaders of the people were:

¹⁵ Parosh, Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani,
¹⁶ Bunni, Azgad, Bebai,
¹⁷ Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin,
¹⁸ Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur,
¹⁹ Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai,
²⁰ Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai,
²¹ Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir,
²² Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua,
²³ Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah,
²⁴ Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub,
²⁵ Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek,
²⁶ Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah,
²⁷ Ahiah, Hanan, Anan,
 Malluch, Harim and Baanah.

²⁸ The rest of the people including the priests, Levites, gatekeepers, singers, temple servants, and all who separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the law of God, their wives, sons and daughters, everyone who was able to understand--

²⁹ joined with their brothers, their nobles, and entered into a curse and took an oath to walk in God's law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, along with his ordinances and statutes.

³⁰ We promised not to give our daughters to the peoples of the land, or to take their daughters in marriage for our sons.

³¹ If the peoples of the land bring their wares or any grain on the Sabbath or on any holy day to sell, we will not buy it. We will forgo planting crops on the seventh year and will cancel all debts.

³² We will also impose an ordinance on ourselves to pay one third of a shekel for the service of the temple of our God,

³³ for the bread of the Presence and for the continual grain offerings, the continual burnt offerings, Sabbaths, the new moons, the appointed festivals, the holy offerings, and the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the temple of our God.

³⁴ "We--the priests, Levites and the people--cast lots for when each family should bring the wood to burn on the altar of the LORD our God at the temple of our God, during the times appointed, year by year, as it is written in the law.

³⁵ We also promise to bring the first fruits of our ground and the first fruits of all types of trees, year by year, to the temple of the LORD.

³⁶ We also will bring the firstborn of our sons and our cattle, and the firstlings of our herds and our flocks as it is written in the law, to bring them to the temple of our God, to the priests who minister in the temple of our God.

³⁷ We will bring the best of our flour, our contributions, and the fruit of every type of tree, the new wine and the olive oil to the priests, to the storerooms of the temple of our God. We will also bring the tithes of our land to the Levites for the Levites will collect the tithes in all the cities where we labor.

³⁸ The priest, the descendant of Aaron, will be with the Levites when the Levites collect tithes. The Levites will bring up the tithe of the tithes to the temple of our God, to the storerooms of the treasury.

³⁹ For the Israelites and the Levites will bring the contribution of the grain, new wine, and olive oil to the storerooms, where the utensils of the sanctuary are, and the priests that minister, the gatekeepers and the singers are. We will not neglect the temple of our God."

DASV: Nehemiah 11

¹ The leaders of the people settled in Jerusalem. The rest of the people cast lots to have one out of every ten settle in Jerusalem the holy city, while the other nine parts remained in the other towns.

² The people blessed all the men who volunteered to live in Jerusalem.

³ Now these are the leaders of the province who lived in Jerusalem, but the rest of Israel, priests, Levites, temple servants and the descendants of Solomon's servants settled in the towns of Judah, everyone on his own property in their towns.

⁴ Certain of the descendants of Judah and descendants of Benjamin settled in Jerusalem.

From the descendants of Judah:

Athaiah the son of Uzziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalalel, from the descendants of Perez;
⁵ and Maaseiah the son of Baruch, the son of Col-hozeh, the son of Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, the descendant of the Shelah.
⁶ All the sons of Perez who lived in Jerusalem were 468 valiant men.

⁷ These are the descendants 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.

⁸ After him were Gabbai, Sallai, 928 total.

⁹ Joel the son of Zichri was their overseer, and Judah the son of Hassenuah was second-in-command over the city.

¹⁰ From the priests:

Jedaiah the son of Joiarib, Jachin,
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 the temple of God,
¹² and their associates who did the work of the temple, 822; 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,
¹³ and his associates, who were heads of the families, 242; and Amashsai the son of Azarel, the son of Ahzai, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer,
¹⁴ and their associates, mighty men of valor, 128; and their overseer was Zabdiel, the son of Haggadolim.

¹⁵ From the Levites:

Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni;
¹⁶ Shabbethai and Jozabad, leaders of the Levites, who were in charge of the outside work of the temple of God;

¹⁷ Mattaniah the son of Mica, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, who was the leader of thanksgiving and prayer, and Bakbukiah, the second among his associates; and Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun.
¹⁸ All the Levites in the holy city were 284 in all.

¹⁹ The gatekeepers,

Akkub, Talmon, and their associates, who kept watch at the gates, were 172.

²⁰ And the rest of Israel, along with the priests, the Levites were in all the towns of Judah, everyone on his property inheritance.

²¹ But the temple servants lived on Ophel. Ziha and Gishpa were over the temple servants.

²² The overseer of the Levites in Jerusalem was Uzzi the son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Mica, of the descendants of Asaph, the singers, in charge of the work of the temple of God.

²³ For there was a command from the king concerning them, which determined the daily routines for the singers.

²⁴ Pethahiah the son of Meshezabel, of the descendants of Zerah the son of Judah, was the king's adviser in all matters concerning the people.

²⁵ As for the villages with their surrounding fields, some of the descendants of Judah lived in Kiriath-arba and its villages, and in Dibon and its villages, and in Jekabzeel and its villages,

²⁶ in Jeshua, in Moladah and Beth-pelet,

²⁷ in Hazar-shual, in Beersheba and its villages,

²⁸ in Ziklag, in Meconah and its villages,

²⁹ in En-rimmon, in Zorah, in Jarmuth,

³⁰ Zanoah, Adullam, and their villages, Lachish and its fields, Azekah and its villages. So they camped from Beersheba to the valley of Hinnom.

³¹ The descendants of Benjamin settled in Geba, Michmash, Aija and at Bethel and its villages,

³² at Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah,

³³ Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim,

³⁴ Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat,

³⁵ Lod, and Ono, the Valley of Craftsmen.

³⁶ Some of divisions of the Levites from Judah also settled in Benjamin.

DASV: Nehemiah 12

¹ These are the priests and the Levites that went up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua:

² Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra,
³ Amariah, Malluch, Hattush,
⁴ Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth,
⁵ Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah,
⁶ Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah,
⁷ Shemaiah, and Joiarib, Jedaiah.
 Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, Jedaiah.

These were the leaders of the priests and their associates in the days of Jeshua.

⁸ The Levites were: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah and Mattaniah, who with his associates were in charge of the songs of thanksgiving.

⁹ Bakbukiah and Unno, their associates, stood across from them during the service.

¹⁰ Jeshua was the father of Joiakim, and Joiakim the father of Eliashib, and Eliashib the father of Joiada,

¹¹ Joiada the father of Jonathan, Jonathan the father of Jaddua.

¹² In the days of Joiakim the priests, family leaders were:

of Seraiah, Meraiah;
 of Jeremiah, Hananiah;
¹³ of Ezra, Meshullam;
 of Amariah, Jehohanan;
¹⁴ of Malluchi, Jonathan;
 of Shebaniah, Joseph;
¹⁵ of Harim, Adna;
 of Meraioth, Helkai;
¹⁶ of Iddo, Zechariah;
 of Ginnethon, Meshullam;
¹⁷ of Abijah, Zichri;
 of Miniamin and of Moadiah, Piltai;
¹⁸ of Bilgah, Shammua;
 of Shemaiah, Jehonathan;
¹⁹ of Joiarib, Mattenai;
 of Jedaiah, Uzzi;
²⁰ of Sallai, Kallai;
 of Amok, Eber;
²¹ of Hilkiyah, Hashabiah;
 of Jedaiah, Nethanel.

²² As for the Levites, in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan, and Jaddua the heads of the families were recorded as were the priests in the reign of Darius the Persian.

²³ The sons of Levi, heads of families, were recorded in the Book of the Annals until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib.

²⁴ The leaders of the Levites were: Hashabiah, Sherebiah and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their associates who stood across from them, to praise and give thanks, as commanded by David the man of God, with one group opposite the other group.

²⁵ Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were gatekeepers guarding the storerooms at the gates.

²⁶ These all served in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor and of Ezra the priest and scribe.

²⁷ For the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites from wherever they lived, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, thanksgiving and singing, accompanied by cymbals, harps and lyres.

²⁸ The singers also assembled themselves, from the region around Jerusalem and from the villages of the Netophathites,

²⁹ and from Beth-gilgal, and from the region of Geba and Azmaveth; for the singers had built villages for themselves around Jerusalem.

³⁰ The priests and the Levites purified themselves; then they purified the people, the gates and the wall.

³¹ Then I brought up the leaders of Judah to the top of the wall, and appointed two large choirs that gave thanks and went in procession. One went to the right on the wall toward the Dung Gate.

³² After them went Hoshaiiah, and half of the leaders of Judah,

³³ and Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam,

³⁴ Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah and Jeremiah,

³⁵ along with some of the priests with trumpets, Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph;

³⁶ and his associates, Shemaiah, and Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God. Ezra the scribe led them.

³⁷ By the Fountain Gate, they went up straight before them by the stairs of the City of David on the ascent to the wall, above the house of David, to the Water Gate on the east.

³⁸ The other choir of those who gave thanks went to the left to meet them, and I followed them, with half of the people, on the wall, above the Tower of the Ovens, to the Broad Wall,

³⁹ then over to the Gate of Ephraim, and by the Jeshanah Gate, the Fish Gate, and the Tower of Hananel, and the Tower of the Hundred, then on to the Sheep Gate. They stopped at the Gate of the Guard.

⁴⁰ So the two choirs of those who had given thanks stood in the temple of God. I and half of the officials with me,

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

⁴² and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam and Ezer. The singers sang with Jezrahiah as their director.

⁴³ That day they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy. The women and children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard far off in the distance.

⁴⁴ On that day men were appointed over the storerooms for the offerings, contributions, the first fruits and for the tithes, to gather the portions allotted by the law for the priests and Levites from the fields of the towns; for Judah was delighted in priests and Levites who ministered there.

⁴⁵ They performed the service of their God, and the service of the purification, as did the singers and the gatekeepers, according to the commandment of David and his son Solomon.

⁴⁶ For in the days of David and Asaph long ago there was a director for the singers and there were songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.

⁴⁷ So all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah, gave daily food portions to the singers and the gatekeepers as required. They set aside that which was for the Levites; and the Levites set aside that which was for the sons of Aaron.

DASV: Nehemiah 13

¹ On that day they read aloud from the book of Moses in the hearing of the people; and it was found written, that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God,
² because they did not meet the Israelites with bread and water, but hired Balaam, to curse them, although our God turned the curse into a blessing.

³ When they heard the law, they separated from Israel all those of foreign descent.

⁴ Now before this, Eliashib the priest had been appointed over the storerooms of the temple of our God. He was related to Tobiah,

⁵ and had prepared for Tobiah a large storage room, where they had previously stored the grain offerings, the incense, and the vessels, including the tithes of grain, new wine and olive oil, which were given by commandment to the Levites, singers and the gatekeepers; and the contributions for the priests.

⁶ During all this, I was not in Jerusalem; for in the thirtieth-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had returned to the king. After a while I asked permission to leave the king

⁷ and return to Jerusalem. Then I learned about the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, in preparing a storeroom for him in the courtyard of the temple of God.

⁸ I was very upset and threw out of the storeroom all the household belongings of Tobiah.

⁹ Then I commanded that they cleanse the storerooms, and I brought back the utensils of the temple of God, with the grain offerings and frankincense.

¹⁰ I perceived that the food rations of the Levites had not been given them; so that the Levites and the singers who were to conduct the service, had gone back to their fields.

¹¹ Then I confronted the officials, and said, "Why has the house of God been forsaken?" I gathered them together and reassigned their proper duties.

¹² Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain, new wine and olive oil into the temple storehouses.

¹³ I designated treasurers over the storehouses, Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe; and from the Levites, Pedaiah and their assistant was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah. They were considered to be faithful, and their job was to distribute to their associates.

¹⁴ Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the temple of my God, and for its services.

¹⁵ In those days I saw in Judah some men treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in grain, and loading it on donkeys; along with wine, grapes, figs and all kinds of merchandise that they brought to Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. So I warned them about the day they were selling their food.

¹⁶ The people of Tyre who lived there brought in fish, and all kinds of merchandise and sold them on the Sabbath to the people of Judah, and in Jerusalem.

¹⁷ I confronted the nobles of Judah, and said to them, "What evil thing is this that you are doing, profaning the Sabbath day?"

¹⁸ Didn't your fathers do this, and didn't our God bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Yet you are bringing even more wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath."

¹⁹ When the gates of Jerusalem began to darken before the Sabbath, I ordered the doors to be shut, and that they should not be opened until after the Sabbath. I set some of my servants over the gates so that no merchandise would be brought in on the Sabbath day.

²⁰ So the merchants and sellers of all kinds of merchandise spent the night outside Jerusalem once or twice.

²¹ Then I warned them and said to them, "Why are you spending the night near the wall? If you do it again, I will lay hands on you." From that time on they did not come on the Sabbath.

²² Then I ordered the Levites to purify themselves and that they should come and guard the gates, in order to maintain the Sabbath day as holy. Remember me for this, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of your steadfast love.

²³ In those days I also saw Jews who had married women from Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab.

²⁴ Half of their children spoke in the language of Ashdod, and they could not speak the language of Judah, but only the language of the other peoples.

²⁵ I confronted them, and cursed them, struck some of them and pulled out their hair. I made them swear to God, saying, "You must not give your daughters to their sons, or take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves.

²⁶ Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by doing these things? There was no king like him among many nations, and he was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Yet foreign women caused even him to sin.

²⁷ Should we then listen to you and do all this great evil, to be unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women?"

²⁸ Then one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son-in-law to Sanballat the Horonite. So I chased him away from me.

²⁹ Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

³⁰ So cleansed I them from everything foreign, and assigned tasks for the priests and the Levites, each one had his own job.

³¹ I also made sure there was wood for the offerings and first fruits at required times. Remember me, O my God, for good.