

NEHEMIAH 12 vs 26

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The Book of Nehemiah originally was one book shared with Ezra; certain Greek manuscripts separated the two prior to the time of Origen and Jerome. Hebrew manuscripts kept them together until 1448. Nehemiah was a very gifted and capable man. His patriotism was infectious, moving men to leave their harvest in the field, in order to make the grueling journey back to Jerusalem. His integrity and humility made him stand out as a leader living at the highest level of trust. He attained fame as the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes of Persia.

Reforms related to those who are not of Judah,

¹ On that day they read in The Book of Moses in the hearing of the people; and in it was found written, that those of Ammon and those of Moab should not enter the assembly of God forever;

² because they did not meet the children of Israel with food and water, but hired Balaam against them, that he would curse them: but our God turned the curse into a blessing.

³ So it happened, when they had heard the law / the instructions of God, they separated from Israel all the mixed mass of foreigners.

⁴ Now prior to this, Eliashib the priest, who had oversight of the rooms of the House of our God, was allied to Tobiah:

⁵ and he prepared a great room for him, where previously they put the meal offerings, the frankincense, and the utensils, and the tithes of the grain, the new wine, and the oil, which was instructed to be given to the Levites, and the singers, and the doorkeepers; and the offerings of the priests.

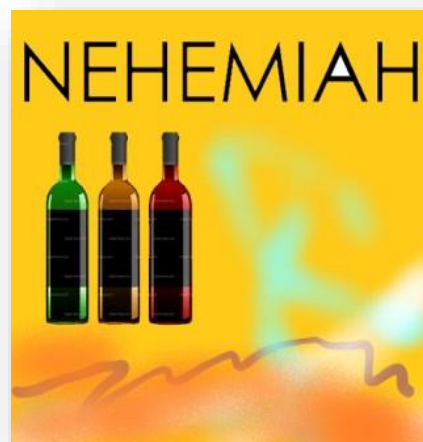
⁶ But during all this time I was not at Jerusalem: for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I went to the king, and after certain days I obtained leave of the king:

⁷ and I returned to Jerusalem, and learned about the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a room in the sacred courts of the House of God.

⁸ And it greatly displeased me: so I threw out all the stuff of Tobiah from that room.

⁹ Then I instructed them, and they cleaned the rooms: and I brought back the utensils of the House of God, with the meat offering and the frankincense.

¹⁰ And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them: for the Levites and the singers, who did the work, had gone, everyone to his own field.



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11 Then I confronted the officials, asking them, Why is the House of God abandoned? And I gathered the Levites together, and set them again in their place.

12 Then all Judah brought the tithe of grain; and of new wine and oil to the storerooms.

13 And I appointed treasurers in charge of the storerooms, Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah: and assisting them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah: for they were counted faithful, and their duty was to distribute the tithe among their fellows.

14 O my God, remember me, concerning this, and do not forget the good service I did for the House of my God, and for its offices.

15 In those days I saw in Judah some treading the winepress on the sabbath, and carrying the sheaves, and loaded on asses; with wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, which they brought to Jerusalem on the sabbath day. I protested on the day when they sold their food.

16 Also men of Tyre live there, who imported fish, and all kinds of things, and sold on the sabbath to the children of Judah in Jerusalem.

17 So I confronted the nobles of Judah, and asked them, What evil thing is this that you do, profaning the sabbath day?

18 Did not your fathers do so, until our God brought all this evil on us, and on this city? And yet you bring fresh wrath on Israel by profaning the sabbath.

19 And it happened, that when darkness began to fall on the gates of Jerusalem before the sabbath, I instructed the gates to be shut, and ordered that they were not to open till after the sabbath: and some of my retinue I placed at the gates, to ensure that no load was brought in on the sabbath day.

20 So once or twice the merchants and sellers of all kinds of stuff lodged outside Jerusalem.

21 But I protested, and asked them,

Why do you hangout by the wall? if you do so again, I will use force on you. And from that time forward, they did not stay there on the sabbath.

22 Then I instructed the Levites that they cleanse themselves, and come as gate keepers, to sanctify the sabbath day. O my God, remember me concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of Your mercy.

23 In those days I also saw Jews who married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab:

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²⁴ and their children spoke half in the language of Ashdod, and could not speak Jewish; but only one or the other of these languages.

²⁵ And I confronted them, and cursed them; I struck some, pulled out their hair, and made them swear to God, saying, You will not give your daughters to the sons of these foreigners, nor take their daughters for your sons, or for yourselves to marry.

²⁶ Was not this the sin of King Solomon of Israel? There is no king like him in all the nations, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: yet even he was outlandishly led into sin by his foreign women.

²⁷ So then are we to think that you can do all this great evil, transgressing against our God in marrying strange wives?

²⁸ And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son-in-law to Sanballat of Horon: so I drove him from my presence.

²⁹ O my God, remember them, because they desecrate the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and the Levites.

³⁰ Thus I cleansed them from all that is foreign, and appointed the duties of the priests and the Levites, each for his assignment;

³¹ and arranged for the offering of wood, at the set times, and for the firstfruits. O my God, remember me, for good.

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