

# Moving into the Purpose of God's Blessings

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**What should we expect today?**

**What do we see in the text?**

**How do this text relate to God's larger purpose?**

**What does all this have to do with you?**



NEHEMIAH

## **Nehemiah 6:15-16**

<sup>[15]</sup> So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. <sup>[16]</sup> And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

## **Nehemiah 7:1-7**

<sup>[1]</sup> Now when the wall had been built and I had set up the doors, and the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed, <sup>[2]</sup> I gave my brother Hanani and Hananiah the governor of the castle charge over Jerusalem, for he was a more faithful and God-fearing man than many. <sup>[3]</sup> And I said to them, "Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot. And while they are still standing guard, let them shut and bar the doors. Appoint guards from among the inhabitants of Jerusalem, some at their guard posts and some in front of their own homes." <sup>[4]</sup> The city was wide and large, but the people within it were few, and no houses had been rebuilt.

<sup>[5]</sup> Then my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles and the officials and the people to be enrolled by genealogy. And I found the book of the genealogy of those who came up at the first, and I found written in it:

<sup>[6]</sup> These were the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of those exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried into exile. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his town. <sup>[7]</sup> They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah.

## **Nehemiah 7:73**

<sup>[73]</sup> So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants, and all Israel, lived in their towns.

And when the seventh month had come, the people of Israel were in their towns. (ESV)

# Moving into the Purpose of God's Blessing

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July 24, 2022

**Open:** Share about a time when you celebrated the completion of something.

**Read & Discuss:** Nehemiah 6:15-19

1. After the wall around Jerusalem was completed, in verse 16, Nehemiah says their enemies "perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God." From what has happened in Nehemiah so far, what are some ways we've seen God help them with this task? What are some tasks you've completed where you felt a clear sense of help from God?
2. Besides the fact that the Israelites had received the help of God, what else might Israel's enemies have perceived about their God? What should we want those who oppose God's work today to come to understand about God? What could we do that might help them see God in this way?
3. Nehemiah 6:17-19 make clear that opposition to Nehemiah had not stopped even after the wall was completed. How do you think Nehemiah may have felt by this ongoing opposition? What do you think kept Nehemiah going, especially given that the wall was already complete? What helps you keep going when your spiritual opposition seems unrelenting?

**Read & Discuss:** Nehemiah 7:1-7, 66-73

4. What does Nehemiah appear to be concerned about for Jerusalem now that the wall has been rebuilt (7:1-4)? What temptations and challenges might work against establishing a healthy city under these circumstances? What is Nehemiah's strategy for moving forward?
5. In 7:5, Nehemiah says God put it in his heart to enroll the people by genealogy. Why might God have wanted Nehemiah to do this? What ways do genealogies in Scripture prove helpful to us? How are you impacted by your own family's genealogy?

**Apply:** What are some specific ways God has blessed you? How might you use those blessings to help others know and experience the blessings of God themselves?

**Pray:** Pray that we would live in such a way that God and His ways are made known through us. Ask God to help us leave a legacy that future generations would aspire to live up to.

## Nehemiah 6:15-19

<sup>15</sup> So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. <sup>16</sup> And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God. <sup>17</sup> Moreover, in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and Tobiah's letters came to them. <sup>18</sup> For many in Judah were bound by oath to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah the son of Arah: and his son Jehohanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah as his wife. <sup>19</sup> Also they spoke of his good deeds in my presence and reported my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to make me afraid.

## Nehemiah 7:1-7, 66-73

<sup>1</sup> Now when the wall had been built and I had set up the doors, and the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed, <sup>2</sup> I gave my brother Hanani and Hananiah the governor of the castle charge over Jerusalem, for he was a more faithful and God-fearing man than many. <sup>3</sup> And I said to them, "Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot. And while they are still standing guard, let them shut and bar the doors. Appoint guards from among the inhabitants of Jerusalem, some at their guard posts and some in front of their own homes." <sup>4</sup> The city was wide and large, but the people within it were few, and no houses had been rebuilt.

<sup>5</sup> Then my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles and the officials and the people to be enrolled by genealogy. And I found the book of the genealogy of those who came up at the first, and I found written in it:

<sup>6</sup> These were the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of those exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried into exile. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his town. <sup>7</sup> They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah...

<sup>66</sup> The whole assembly together was 42,360, <sup>67</sup> besides their male and female servants, of whom there were 7,337. And they had 245 singers, male and female. <sup>68</sup> Their horses were 736, their mules 245, <sup>69</sup> their camels 435, and their donkeys 6,720.

<sup>70</sup> Now some of the heads of fathers' houses gave to the work. The governor gave to the treasury 1,000 darics of gold, 50 basins, 30 priests' garments and 500 minas of silver. <sup>71</sup> And some of the heads of fathers' houses gave into the treasury of the work 20,000 darics of gold and 2,200 minas of silver. <sup>72</sup> And what the rest of the people gave was 20,000 darics of gold, 2,000 minas of silver, and 67 priests' garments.

<sup>73</sup> So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants, and all Israel, lived in their towns. And when the seventh month had come, the people of Israel were in their towns. (ESV)