

NEHEMIAH

CHAPTER 1

1 The words of Nehemiah, the son of Hachaliah. And it was done in the month of Chisleu, *that is, November*, in the twentieth year, and I was in the castle of Susa (and I was in the capital city of Susa);

2 and Hanani, one of my brethren, came to me, he and men of Judah; and I asked them of the Jews, that were left, and were alive of the captivity, and of Jerusalem. (and Hanani, one of my brothers, came to me, he and some men from Judah; and I asked them about Jerusalem, and about the Jews who had remained there since the captivity/and about the Jews who had returned there from the captivity.)

3 And they said to me, They that be left of the captivity, and that dwelled there still in the province, be in great torment, and shame; and the wall of Jerusalem is destroyed, and the gates of it be burnt with fire. (And they said to me, They who survived the captivity, and had returned there to the province, be in great torment, and shame/They who had remained there in the province, and had not gone into captivity, be in great torment, and shame; and the wall of Jerusalem is broken in many places, and its gates be burned with fire.)

4 And when I had heard such words, I sat and wept, and mourned many days, and I fasted, and prayed before the face of (the) God of heaven;

5 and I said, I beseech *thee*, Lord God of heaven, *that art* strong, great, and fearedful, that keepest covenant and mercy with them that love thee, and keep thy behests; (and I said, I beseech *thee*, Lord God of heaven, *who art* strong, and great, and fearful, and who keepest covenant and mercy with those who love thee, and who keep thy commandments;)

6 thine ear be made harkening, and thine eyes opened, that thou hear the prayer of thy servant, by which *prayer* I pray before thee now, by night and day, for the sons of Israel, thy servants, and I acknowledge for the sins of the sons of Israel, by which they have sinned to thee; both I and the house of my father have sinned; (let thine ear harken, and thine eyes *be* opened, so that

thou hear the prayer of thy servant, by which *prayer* I pray before thee now, by night and day, for thy servants the Israelites, and I confess the sins of the Israelites, which we have sinned against thee; both I and the house of my father have sinned;)

7 we were deceived by vanity, and we kept not thy commandment(s), and ceremonies, and dooms, which thou commandedest to Moses, thy servant. (we were deceptive and vain, *that is, sinful and proud*, and we kept not thy commandments, and statutes, and judgements, which thou commandedest to thy servant Moses.)

8 Have mind of the word (Remember the word), which thou commandedest to thy servant Moses, and saidest, When ye have trespassed, I shall scatter you into (the) peoples;

9 and if ye turn again to me, that ye keep my behests, and do those, yea, though ye be led away to the furthest things of heaven, from thence I shall gather you together, and I shall bring you into the place, that I have chosen, that my name should dwell there. (but if ye return to me, and ye keep my commandments, and do them, yea, though ye be led away to the farthest reaches of the heavens, *that is, unto the ends of the earth*, I shall gather you together from there, and I shall bring you into the place which I have chosen, that my name should be there.)

10 And we be thy servants, and thy people, which thou hast again-bought in thy great strength, and in thy strong hand. (And we be thy servants, and thy people, whom thou hast bought back, *that is, redeemed, or rescued*, with thy great strength, and with thy strong hand.)

11 Lord, I beseech thee, thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, that will dread thy name; and direct thy servant to day, and give thou mercy to him before this man, *that is, Artaxerxes, (the) king*. For I was the bottler of the king. (Lord, I beseech thee, let thy ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayers of thy servants, who desire to revere thy name; and give thy servant success today, and give thou mercy to him before this

NEHEMIAH

man, *that is*, King Artaxerxes. For I was the king's butler.)

CHAPTER 2

1 And it was done in the month of Nisan, *that is*, April, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes, the king, and wine was before him, and I took up the wine, and I gave it to the king, and I was as languishing before his face.

2 And the king said to me, Why is thy cheer sorry, *or heavy*, since I see not thee sick? This is not without cause; but I know not what evil is in thine heart. And I dreaded full greatly; (And the king said to me, Why is thy face so sad? for I see that thou art not sick. This is not without a cause; but I do not know what the problem is in thy heart. And I greatly feared;)

3 and I said to the king, King, live thou (into) without end; why should not my cheer mourn? for the city of the house of the sepulchres of my father[s] is deserted, *either forsaken*, and the gates thereof be burnt with fire. (and I said to the king, O king, may thou live forevermore; but why should my face not look sad? for the city of the house of my forefathers' graves, *or tombs*, is deserted, and its gates be burned down.)

4 And the king said to me, For what thing askest thou? And I prayed (to the) God of heaven,

5 and I said to the king, If it seemeth good to the king, and if it pleaseth thy servants *which be* before thy face, I beseech *thee*, that thou send me into Judah, to the city of the sepulchre(s) of my father(s), and I shall build it (again). (and I said to the king, If it seemeth good to the king, and if thy servant *who is* before thy face pleaseth thee, I beseech *thee*, that thou send me to Judah, to the city of my forefathers' graves, and I shall rebuild it.)

6 And the king said to me, and the queen sat beside him, Unto what time shall thy way be, and when shalt thou turn again? And it pleased to the king, and he sent me *forth*, and I set to the king a time *of coming again*; (And the king said to me, as the queen sat beside him, How long shalt thou be away, and when shalt thou return? And so it pleased the king, and he sent me *forth*, and I set a time *when I would return* to the king;)

7 and I said to the king, If it seemeth good to the king, give he epistles, *or letters*, to me to the dukes of the country beyond the flood, that they lead me over, till I come into Judah; (and I said to the king, If it seemeth good to the king, let him give me letters to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, with orders to help me get to Judah;)

8 and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest,

that he give trees to me, that I may cover (with it) the gates of the tower of the house, and of the wall of the city, and the house, into which I shall enter. And the king gave (the letters) to me, by the good hand of my God, (that was) with me. (and also a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forests, ordering him to give me wood, *or timber*, so that I can make beams for the gates of the stronghold, *or the fortress*, and for the city wall, and for the house in which I shall live. And the king gave me the letters, by the good hand of my God, who was with me.)

9 And I came to the dukes of the country beyond the flood, and I gave to them the letters of the king. Soothly the king had sent with me the princes of knights, and (some) horsemen. (And I came to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, and I gave them the king's letters. And the king had sent with me the leaders of the horsemen, and some horsemen as well.)

10 And Sanballat (the) Horonite, and Tobiah, the servant, (the) Ammonite, heard, and they were sorrowful by great torment, that a man was come, that sought prosperity of the sons of Israel. (And Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the Ammonite servant, heard *of it*, and they were greatly vexed that a man had come, who sought to do good for the Israelites.)

11 And I came into Jerusalem, and I was there three days.

12 And I rose up by night, I and a few men with me, and I showed not to any man (and I told no one), what thing God had given in mine heart, that I would do in Jerusalem; and there was no work beast with me, but the beast that I sat on.

13 And I went out by the gate of the valley by night, and before the well of the dragon, and to the gate of dung; and I beheld the wall of Jerusalem (that was) destroyed, and the gates thereof (that were) wasted by fire. (And I went out at night through the Valley Gate, toward the Dragon Well, and the Dung Gate; and I looked at the wall of Jerusalem, that was broken in many places, and at its gates, that had been destroyed by fire.)

14 And I passed forth to the gate of the well, and to the water conduit of the king, and there was no place for to pass, to the horse, that I sat upon; (And I passed on to the Fountain Gate, and to the King's Pool, but there was no place for the horse that I sat on, to pass through;)

15 and in the night I went up by the strand, and I beheld the wall, and I turned again, and came to the gate of the valley, and I went again (to my lodging). (and then

NEHEMIAH

I went up that night by the valley, and I looked at the wall, and then I returned, and came back to the Valley Gate, and went home to my lodging.)

16 Forsooth the magistrates knew not, whither I had gone, either what I would do; but also I had not showed any thing to the Jews, and [the] priests, and to the best men, and [the] magistrates, and to [the] other men that made the work, till that time. (But the magistrates did not know where I had gone, or what I planned to do; and also I had not told anything to the Jews, or the priests, or the leaders, or the magistrates, or the other men who would do the work, up to that time.)

17 And I said to them, Ye know the torment, in which we *Jews* be, for Jerusalem is deserted, and the gates thereof be wasted with fire; come ye, build we [up] the walls of Jerusalem, and be we no more (a) shame/and be we no more in shame. (And so I said to them, Ye know the torment in which we *Jews* be, for Jerusalem is deserted, and its gates have been destroyed by fire; come ye, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and let us be in shame no more.)

18 And I showed to them the hand of my God, that it was good with me, and the words of the king, which he spake to me; and I said, Rise we up, and build we (it again); and the hands of them were strengthened in good. (And I told them how the good hand of my God was upon me, and the words of the king, which he had spoken to me; and they said, Rise we up, and let us rebuild it; and so they strengthened their hands to do this good work.)

19 And Sanballat (the) Horonite, and Tobiah, the servant, (the) Ammonite, and Geshem (of) Arabs, heard *this*, and they scorned us, and despised; and said, What is this thing, that ye do? whether ye rebel against the king? (And Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the Ammonite servant, and Geshem the Arab heard of *this*, and they scorned us, and despised us; and they said, What is this, that ye do? do ye rebel against the king?)

20 And I answered to them a word, and I said to them, God himself of heaven helpeth us, and we be his servants; rise we up, and build; forsooth part, and rightwiseness, and mind, in Jerusalem, is not to you. (And I answered to them, and said, The God of heaven helpeth us, and we be his servants; we shall rise up, and rebuild it; but there is no part, or right, or precedent, for you in Jerusalem.)

CHAPTER 3

1 And Eliashib, the great priest, rose up, and his

brethren, and priests, and they builded the gate of the flock; they made it steadfast; and they set up the gates thereof, and unto the tower of an hundred cubits they made it steadfast, unto the tower of Hananeel. (And the High Priest Eliashib, and his fellow priests, rose up, and they rebuilt the Sheep Gate; and they dedicated it/yea, they rebuilt it, and they put up its doors, *or its gates*, and they dedicated the wall unto the Tower of the Hundred, *and* unto the Tower of Hananeel.)

2 And beside him the men of Jericho builded; and beside them builded Zaccur, the son of Imri. (And beside him, the men of Jericho rebuilt; and Zaccur, the son of Imri, rebuilt beside them.)

3 And the sons of Hassenaah builded the gates of fishes; they covered it, and setted (up) the gates thereof, and (the) locks, and bars. (And the sons of Hassenaah rebuilt the Fish Gate; they rebuilt it, and put up its doors, *or its gates*, with their locks and bars.)

4 And Meremoth, the son of Urijah, the son of Hakkoz, builded beside them. And Meshullam, the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabeel, builded beside him. And Zadok, the son of Baana, builded beside him.

5 And men of Tekoa builded beside him; but the principal men of them under-putted not their necks in the work of their Lord God. (And the men of Tekoa rebuilt beside them; but their leaders did not put their shoulders to the work of the Lord their God.)

6 And Jehoiada, the son of Paseah, and Meshullam, the son of Besodeiah, builded the old gate; they builded it, and setted up the gates thereof, and the locks, and bars. (And Jehoiada, the son of Paseah, and Meshullam, the son of Besodeiah, rebuilt the Old Gate, *or the Jeshanah Gate*; they rebuilt it, and put up its doors, *or its gates*, with their locks and bars.)

7 And Melatiah (the) Gibeonite, and Jadon (the) Meronothite, men of Gibeon, and of Mizpah, builded beside them, for the duke that was in the country beyond the flood. (And Melatiah the Gibeonite, and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon, and of Mizpah, rebuilt beside them, unto the residence of the governor of the province west of the Euphrates River.)

8 And Uzziel, the goldsmith, the son of Harhaiah, builded beside him; and Hananiah, the son of an ointment maker, builded beside him; and they let go Jerusalem till to the wall of the larger street. (And Uzziel, the goldsmith, the son of Harhaiah, rebuilt beside them; and Hananiah, the son of a perfume maker, rebuilt beside him; and they rebuilt Jerusalem unto the Broad Wall.)

NEHEMIAH

9 And Rephaiah, the son of Hur, prince of a street of Jerusalem, builded beside them. (And Rephaiah, the son of Hur, the ruler of half of the district of Jerusalem, rebuilt beside them.)

10 And Jedaiah, the son of Harumaph, builded beside them over against his own house; and Hattush, the son of Hashabniah, builded beside him. (And Jedaiah, the son of Harumaph, rebuilt beside him, opposite his own house; and Hattush, the son of Hashabniah, rebuilt beside him.)

11 And Malchijah, the son of Harim, and Hashub, the son of Pahathmoab, builded the half part of the street, and the tower of ovens. (And Malchijah, the son of Harim, and Hashub, the son of Pahathmoab, rebuilt the next section, and the Tower of the Ovens, *or the Tower of the Furnaces*.)

12 Shallum, the son of Halohesh, prince of the half part of a street of Jerusalem, builded beside him, he and his sons. (Shallum, the son of Halohesh, the ruler of the other half of the district of Jerusalem, rebuilt beside them, with the help of his daughters.)

13 And Hanun, and the dwellers of Zanoah, builded the gate of the valley; they builded it, and setted up the gates thereof, and the locks and bars thereof; and *they builded* a thousand cubits in the wall unto the gate of the dunghill. (And Hanun, and the inhabitants of Zanoah, rebuilt the Valley Gate; they rebuilt it, and put up its doors, *or its gates*, with their locks and bars; and *they rebuilt* a thousand cubits of the wall unto the Dung Gate.)

14 And Malchiah, the son of Rechab, prince of a street of Bethhaccerem, builded the gate of the dunghill; he builded it, and setted it up, and covered the gates thereof, and (the) locks, and bars. (And Malchiah, the son of Rechab, the ruler of the district of Bethhaccerem, rebuilt the Dung Gate; he rebuilt it, and put up its doors, *or its gates*, with their locks and bars.)

15 And Shallun, the son of Colhozeh, prince of a town of Mizpah, builded the gate of the well; he builded it, and covered it, and he set up the gates thereof, and (the) locks, and bars; and *he builded* the walls of the cistern of Siloah, unto the orchard of the king, and unto the degrees of the king, which come down from the city of David. (And Shallun, the son of Colhozeh, the ruler of the district of Mizpah, rebuilt the Fountain Gate; he rebuilt it, and roofed it, *or covered it*, and he put up its doors, *or its gates*, with their locks and bars; and *he rebuilt* the wall by the Pool of Siloah, beside the king's garden, and unto the steps which came down from the City of David.)

16 And Nehemiah, the son of Azbuk, prince of the half part of the street of Bethzur, builded after him, unto over against the sepulchre of David, and unto the cistern, that is builded with great work, and unto the house of strong men. (And Nehemiah, the son of Azbuk, the ruler of half of the district of Bethzur, rebuilt after him, to a point opposite David's tomb, and the pool that was built with great work, and the house for the strong men, *that is, the barracks*.)

17 And (the) deacons builded after him; and Rehum, the son of Bani, builded after them. And Hashabiah, the prince of half part of the street of Keilah, builded in his street after him. (And the Levites rebuilt after him; first Rehum, the son of Bani, rebuilt. And after him, Hashabiah, the ruler of half of the district of Keilah, rebuilt in his district.)

18 The brethren of them, Bavai, the son of Henadad, prince of the half part of Keilah, builded after him. (And their kinsmen rebuilt after him; first Bavai, the son of Henadad, the ruler of the other half of the district of Keilah.)

19 And Ezer, the son of Jeshua, prince of Mizpah, builded beside him the second measure, (over) against the going up of the strongest corner. (And then Ezer, the son of Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah, rebuilt the next section beside him, opposite the ascent, or the going up, of the strongest corner.)

20 And Baruch, the son of Zabbai, builded after him in the hill the second measure, from the corner unto the gate of the house of Eliashib, the great priest. (And Baruch, the son of Zabbai, rebuilt the next section after him, on the hill, from the corner unto the door of the house of the High Priest Eliashib.)

21 And Meremoth, the son of Urijah, son of Hakkoz, builded after him the second measure, from the gate [of the house] of Eliashib, as far as the house of Eliashib was stretched forth. (And Meremoth, the son of Urijah, the son of Hakkoz, rebuilt the next section after him, from the door of the house of Eliashib, unto the end of Eliashib's house.)

22 And [the] priests, men of the field places of Jordan, builded after him. (And the priests, from the area around Jerusalem, rebuilt after him.)

23 And Benjamin and Hashub builded after him over against their house; and Azariah, the son of Maaseiah, son of Ananiah, builded after him over against his own house. (And Benjamin and Hashub rebuilt after them, opposite their own houses; and Azariah, the son of

NEHEMIAH

Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, rebuilt after them opposite his own house.)

24 And Binnui, the son of Henadad, builded after him the second measure, from the house of Azariah unto the bowing (of the wall), and unto the corner. (And Binnui, the son of Henadad, rebuilt the next section after him, from the house of Azariah unto the turning of the wall, that is, unto the corner.)

25 Palal, the son of Uzai, *builded* over against the bowing (of the wall), and the tower that standeth forth, from the high house of the king, that is in the large place of the prison; Pedaiah, the son of Parosh, *builded* after him. (Palal, the son of Uzai, *rebuilt* from the turning of the wall, opposite the tower that standeth forth from the king's high house, *or his palace*, in the courtyard of the guard; and Pedaiah, the son of Parosh, *rebuilt* after him.)

26 And (the) Nethinims dwelled in Ophel till (over) against the gate of waters at the east, and the tower that appeared (*over the others*). (to a place on the east, opposite the Water Gate, and the tower that appeared over the others. This was near the part of Jerusalem called Ophel, where the Temple workers lived.)

27 After him men of Tekoa builded the second measure even over against, from the great tower, and appearing unto the wall of the temple. (After him the men of Tekoa rebuilt a second section, from a point opposite the great tower, that appeared *over the others*, unto the wall of Ophel.)

28 And [the] priests builded above at the gate of horses, each man over against his house. (And the priests rebuilt above the Horse Gate, each man opposite his own house.)

29 And Zadok, the son of Immer, builded over against his house after them. And Shemaiah, the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the east gate, builded after him. (And Zadok, the son of Immer, rebuilt after them, opposite his house. And Shemaiah, the son of Shechaniah, the guard, *or the doorkeeper*, of the East Gate, rebuilt after him.)

30 Hananiah, the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, builded after him the second measure. Meshullam, the son of Berechiah, builded over against his chamber after him. (Hananiah, the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, rebuilt the next section after him. Meshullam, the son of Berechiah, rebuilt after them, opposite his room.)

31 Malchiah, the son of a goldsmith, builded after him unto the house of (the) Nethinims, and of men selling shields, over against the gate of judges, and unto the

solar of the corner. (Malchiah, the son of a goldsmith, rebuilt after him unto the house of the Temple workers, and the merchants, opposite the Miphkad Gate, *or the Watch Gate*, to the room on the top of the corner.)

32 And craftsmen and merchants builded within the solar of the corner, and the gate of the king. (And the craftsmen, and the merchants, rebuilt between the room on the top of the corner, and the Sheep Gate.)

CHAPTER 4

1 And it was done, when Sanballat had heard, that we builded the wall, he was full wroth, and he was stirred greatly, and he scorned the Jews. (And it was done, when Sanballat heard, that we were rebuilding the wall, he was very angry, and was greatly stirred up, and he scorned the Jews.)

2 And he said before his brethren, and the multitude of Samaritans, What do the feeble Jews? Whether heathen men shall suffer them? Whether they shall [ful]fill, and make sacrifice in one day? Whether they may build stones of the heaps of the dust, which be burnt? (And he said before his kinsmen, and the multitude of the Samaritans, What do these feeble Jews think they be doing? Do they think they can rebuild the whole city? Do they believe they can just make a sacrifice, and then finish it all in one day? Can they make stones out of heaps of rubble, which be all burned up?)

3 And also Tobiah (the) Ammonite, his neighbour, said, Build they; if a fox go up, he shall over-leap their stone wall. (And Tobiah the Ammonite, who was beside him, said, Let them build; for if a fox shall go up there, he shall just leap over their stone wall.)

4 And Nehemiah said (*in prayer*), Our God, hear thou, for we be made despising (for we be despised); turn thou the shame upon their own head(s), and give thou them into despising in the land of captivity;

5 cover thou not the wickedness of them, and their sins be not done away before thy face; for they scorned the builders.

6 Therefore we builded the wall, and joined together all till to the half part, and the heart of the people was excited to work. (And so we rebuilt the wall, and joined *it* all together, up to half of its height, and the heart of the people was excited to do this work.)

7 And it was done when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Arabians, and Ammonites, and men of Ashdod had heard, that the breaking of the wall of Jerusalem was stopped, and that the crazings had begun to be closed

NEHEMIAH

together, they were full wroth. (And when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabs, and the Ammonites, and the men of Ashdod had heard, that the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem was progressing, and that the gaps had begun to be closed, they were very angry.)

8 And *they* all were gathered together to come and fight against Jerusalem, and to cast treasons *against it*.

9 And we prayed the Lord our God, and we setted keepers on the wall day and night against them. (And we prayed to the Lord our God, and we put guards on the wall day and night, to protect against them.)

10 And Judah said, The strength of the bearer is made feeble, and the earth is full much, and we be not able to build the wall. (But the men of Judah said, The strength of the workers hath become feeble, and there is just too much rubble, and so we cannot rebuild the wall.)

11 And our enemies said, Know they not, and know they not, till we come into the middle of them, and slay them, and make the work to cease. (And our enemies said, Let them know nothing, until we *suddenly* come into their midst, and kill them all, and stop the work.)

12 Forsooth it was done, when [the] Jews came, that dwelled beside them, and said to us by ten times, from all places from which they came to us, (And it was done, that the Jews who lived beside them came, and told us ten times, that our enemies would soon be upon us, from all the places from which they had come to us,)

13 I ordained the people in order, with their swords, and spears, and bows, in a place behind the wall by compass. (and so I ordained the people in order, with their swords, and spears, and bows, in places all around behind the wall.)

14 I beheld, and rose, and said to the principal men, and magistrates, and to the other part of the common people, Do not ye dread of their face; *but* have ye mind of the great Lord, and fearedful, and fight ye for your brothers, and your sons, and your daughters, for your wives, and house(hold)s. (And I looked about, and rose up, and said to the leaders, and the magistrates, and to all the people, Do not ye fear them; *but instead*, think upon, *or remember*, the great and fearful Lord, and fight ye for your brothers, and your sons, and your daughters, and your wives, and your families, *or your kinsmen*.)

15 And it was done, when our enemies had heard that it was told to us, God destroyed their counsel; and *then* all we turned again to the walls, each man to his work. (And it was done, that our enemies heard that everything had been told to us, and so God destroyed their plans;

and *then* we all returned to rebuilding the wall, each man to his own work.)

16 And it was done from that day, the half part of the young men made the work, and the half part was ready to battle; and (held) spears, and shields, and bows, and habergeons, and (the) princes after them, in all the house of men of Judah, (And so it was done from that day on, that half the young men did the work, and the other half were ready for battle, and held spears, and shields, and bows, and breastplates; and the leaders supported all the men of the house of Judah,)

17 building in the wall, and bearing burdens, and putting on; with their one hand they made the work, and with the other they held *their* sword. (who were rebuilding the wall. And for those carrying the loads, with their one hand they did the work, and with the other hand they held *their* sword.)

18 For each of the builders was girded with a sword upon his reins; and they builded *the wall*, and they sounded with clarions beside me. (And each of the builders was girded with a sword around his waist, as they rebuilt *the wall*. And the man who sounded with the trumpet was beside me.)

19 And I said to the principal men, and (to the) magistrates, and to the other part of the common people, The work is great and broad, and we be separated far in the wall, one from another; (And I said to the leaders, and the magistrates, and the rest of the people, The work is great and broad, *or spread out*, and we all be separated on the wall, one far from another);

20 *therefore* in whatever place that ye hear [the] sound of the trump (*and so* whenever ye hear the sound of the trumpet), run ye together thither to us; for our God shall fight for us.

21 And we ourselves shall make the work, and the half of us hold we spears, from the going up of the morrowtide till that [the] stars go out. (And so we did the work, and half of us held spears, from the rising of the morning sun until the stars came out.)

22 And in that time I said to the people, Each man with his servant dwell he in the midst of Jerusalem, and whiles be to us by night, and (the) day to work. (And at that time I said to the people, Each man stay he with his servant in the middle of Jerusalem, and be on guard for us by night, and do the work by day.)

23 But I, and my brethren, and my keepers, and [my] servants, that were (*going*) after me, did not (put) off our clothes; each man was made naked only to washing.

NEHEMIAH

(And I, and my kinsmen, and my servants, and the men who were protecting me, never took off our clothes; each man was made naked only for washing/each of us kept our right hand on our sword *at all times*.)

CHAPTER 5

1 And great cry of the people and of their wives was made against their brethren Jews. (And later there came a time when a great cry of the people, both men and women, was made against their fellow Jews.)

2 And there were (those) that said, Our sons and our daughters be full many; take we wheat for the price of them, and eat we, and live. (And there were those who said, We have sold our sons and our daughters for corn, *or for grain*, so that we could eat, and stay alive.)

3 Also there were (others) that said, Set we forth *to sale* our fields, and vineries, and our houses, and take we wheat *to eat* in *this* hunger. (And there were others who said, We have sold our fields, and our vineyards, and our houses, so we could get corn, *or grain*, *to eat* during *this* famine.)

4 And other men said, Take we money by borrowing, *for usury*, into the tributes of the king, and give our fields and vineries. (And still others said, We have borrowed money *with interest*, against our fields and our vineyards, so we could pay the tributes, *or the taxes*, to the king.)

5 And now as the flesh of our brethren be, so and our flesh be; and as be the sons of them, so and our sons be; lo! we have made subject our sons and our daughters into servage, and servantesses be (made) of our daughters, and we have not whereof they may be again-bought; and other men have in possession our fields, and our vineries. (And now though our flesh be like the flesh of our kinsmen, and our sons be like their sons; lo! we have subjected our sons and our daughters to servitude, *or slavery*, and some of our daughters be made slave-girls; and we have not whereof to buy them back, for now others possess our fields, and our vineyards.)

6 And I was full wroth, when I had heard the cry of them by these words. (And I was very angry, when I had heard their outcry over these matters.)

7 And mine heart thought with(in) me, and I blamed the principal men, and magistrates; and I said to them, Ask ye not usuries, *or increase*, each man of your brethren (And I thought in my heart within me, and I rebuked the leaders, and the magistrates; and I said to them, Ye should not ask for usury, *or unfair interest*, from your kinsmen). And I gathered together a great company

against them,

8 and I said to them, As ye know, we have by our power again-bought our brethren Jews, that were sold to heathen men; and ye now sell your brethren, and shall we again-buy them *of you*? And they held silence, and found not what they should answer. (and I said to them, As ye know, by our power we have bought back our fellow Jews, who were sold to the heathen; but now your own kinsmen must sell themselves to you, and so now do we have to buy them back *from you*? And they held their peace, and found not what they should answer.)

9 And I said to them, It is not (a) good thing, that ye do; why go ye not in the dread of our God, and reproof be not said to us of heathen men, our enemies? (And I said to them, It is not good what ye have done; why do ye not go in the fear of our God? and then rebuke would not be said to us by our enemies, the heathen.)

10 Both I, and my brethren, and my servants, have lent to full many men money and wheat; in common, ask we not (for) this again; *but* forgive we alien money, *or usury*, which is due to us. (I, and my kinsmen, and my servants, have lent money and corn to a great many people; let us agree together that we shall not ask for any of this back; *and* let us forget about the interest, which is due to us.)

11 And again yield ye to them to day their fields, and their vineries, their olive places, and their houses; and rather, give ye for them the hundred part of money, and of wheat, of wine, and of oil, which ye were wont to take of them. (And today, give ye back to them their fields, and their vineyards, their olive groves, and their houses; and give ye back to them the money, and the corn, the wine, and the oil, which ye were wont to take from them.)

12 And they said, We shall yield *their goods to them*, and we shall ask nothing of them; and we shall do so as thou speakest. And I called the priests, and I made them to swear, that they should do after this, that I had said. (And they said, We shall give back *their goods to them*, and we shall ask nothing from them; and we shall do as thou sayest. And I called for the priests, and I made them swear before the priests, that they would do as they had promised.)

13 And furthermore I shook my bosom, and I said, So (may) God shake away each man from his house, and *from* his travails, that fulfilleth not this word; and be he shaken away, and be he made void. And all the multitude said, Amen; and they praised God. And the people did, as it was said (And all the people/And all the leaders did, as they had promised).

NEHEMIAH

14 Forsooth from that day in which the king had commanded to me, that I should be duke in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year unto the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes (the) king, *that is*, by twelve years, I and my brethren ate not the sustenances which were due to dukes. (And from the day in which the king had commanded me, that I should be the governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year unto the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes, *that is*, for twelve years, I and my kinsmen did not take the sustenances, *that is*, the *food allowances*, which were due to the governor.)

15 But the first dukes, that were before me, grieved the people, and took of them in bread, and wine, and money, each day forty shekels; and also their ministers oppressed the people. But I did not so, for the dread of God; (But the former governors, who were there before me, grieved the people, and took from them bread, and wine, and money, forty shekels worth, each day; and their servants, and their officers, also oppressed the people. But I did not do so, for the fear of God/because of my reverence for God;)

16 but rather *I subjected myself*, and I builded in the work of the wall (and I helped rebuild the wall), and I bought no field, and all my servants were gathered together *with me* to (do) the work.

17 Also [the] Jews and the magistrates of them, an hundred and fifty men, and they that came to me from heathen men, that be in our compass, were *eating* in my table. (And some of the Jews and their magistrates, a hundred and fifty men, and also some of the heathen, who came to me from all around us, ate at my table.)

18 Forsooth by each day one ox was made ready to me, six chosen wethers, besides volatiles, and within ten days diverse wines; and I gave many other things; furthermore and I asked not (for) the sustenances of my duchy; for the people was made full poor. (And each day an ox, and six chosen sheep, and fowls, were provided by me, and every ten days, a new supply of wine; and I gave many other things as well; and furthermore I did not ask for the governor's allowance, to which I was entitled, because the people were already so poor.)

19 My God, have thou mind on me into good, by all things which I have done to this people. (My God, remember me, for all the good things which I have done for these people.)

CHAPTER 6

1 Forsooth it was done, when Sanballat had heard,

and Tobiah, and Geshem of Arabia, and our other enemies, that I had builded (again) the wall, and no more breaking was therein; and unto that time I had not set up the leaves of shutting of the gates; (And it was done, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arab, and all our other enemies had heard, that I had rebuilt the wall, and that there were no longer any breaks in it; although until that time I had not put up the leaves for shutting the gates;)

2 and Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem of Arabia sent to me, and said, Come thou into a field, and smite we bond of peace in (one of the) villages; certainly they thought to do evil to me. (and Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arab sent *word* to me, and said, Come thou, and strike we a covenant, in one of the villages on the Plain of Ono; but truly they thought to do evil to me.)

3 Therefore I sent messengers to them, and I said, I make a great work, and I may not go down *therefore* (And so I sent messengers to them, and I said, I am doing important work here, *and so* I cannot go down there), lest peradventure it be done recklessly/lest peradventure it be done negligently, when I come, and go down to you.

4 Soothly they sent to me by this word by four times, and I answered to them by the former word. (And they sent this request to me four times, and each time I answered to them what I had said before.)

5 And Sanballat sent to me the fifth time by the former word his servant; and he had in his hand a letter, (And the fifth time, Sanballat sent his servant to me with the same request; and he had a letter in his hand,)

6 written in this manner; It is heard among heathen men, and Gashmu said, that thou and the Jews think for to rebel, and therefore ye build (again) *the wall*, and thou wilt raise thee (up as) king on them; (written in this manner; It is heard among the heathen, and Gashmu said, that thou and the Jews plan to rebel, and so ye rebuild *the wall*, and soon thou wilt raise thyself up as a king over them;)

7 for which cause also thou hast set prophets, which preach of thee in Jerusalem, and say, A king is in Jerusalem; the king shall hear these words; therefore come thou now, that we take counsel together. (for which reason thou hast also set forth prophets, who preach of thee in Jerusalem, and say, There is a *new king* in Judah; the king shall hear of these words; and so come thou now, so that we can take counsel about this matter together.)

8 And I sent to them, and said, It is not done by these

NEHEMIAH

words which thou speakest; for (out) of thine *own* heart thou makest these things (up).

9 All these men made us afeared, and thought that our hands should cease from *our* works, and that we should rest *from building*; for which cause I strengthened more mine hand *thereto* (and for this reason I applied myself even more strongly *to the task at hand*).

10 And I entered privily into the house of Shemaiah, the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabeel, which said to me, (Re)Treat we there with ourselves in(to) the house of God, in(to) the midst of the temple, and close we the gates of the house; for they shall come to slay thee, yea, by (the) night they shall come to slay thee. (And I entered into the house of Shemaiah, the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabeel, who was enclosed, *or confined*, there, and he said to me, Let us go to the House of God, into the middle of the Temple, and lock all the doors of the House; for they shall come to kill thee, yea, in the night they shall come to kill thee.)

11 And I said, Whether any man like to me, *that is, trusting so to God, as I do*, hath fled *for such a thing*, and who as I shall enter into the temple, and shall live, *or be saved there*? I will not enter [in] *thither*. (And I said, Hath any man like me, *who trusteth in God, like I do*, fled *for such a reason*, or would anyone like me, enter into the Temple to save his own life? I will not go *there*.)

12 And I understood that God had not sent him, but he spake as prophesying to me; and Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him for meed. (And then I understood that God had not sent him, but that he only spoke as if prophesying to me; and that Tobiah and Sanballat had bribed him to say it.)

13 For he had taken price, that I should be afeared, and do *their will*, and that I should do sin; and they should have evil (*against me*), which they should put to me with shame. (For he had taken money from them, to make me afraid, so that I would do *their will*, and that I would sin; and then they would have evil *to put against me*, which they would put on me for my shame.)

14 Lord, have mind of me, for Tobiah and Sanballat, by such works of them; but also of Noadiah, the prophet(ess), and of other prophets, that have made me afeared. (Lord, remember Tobiah, and Sanballat, for all their *evil* works; and also Noadiah, the prophetess, and the other prophets, who have made me afraid.)

15 And the wall was ended in the five and twentieth day of the month of Elul, *that is, August*, in two and fifty days. (And so the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth

day of the month of Elul, *that is, August*, after *only* fifty-two days of *rebuilding*.)

16 And it was done, when all our enemies had heard, that all [the] heathen men dreaded *us*, that were in our compass, and they felled down within themselves, and they knew *then*, that this work was made of God. (And it was done, when all our enemies had heard of this, then all the heathen, who were all around us, feared *us*, and they fell down within themselves, for they knew *then*, that this work was done with God's help.)

17 But also in those days many letters of the principal men of (the) Jews were sent to Tobiah, and came from Tobiah to them. (And also in those days many letters were sent from the leaders of the Jews to Tobiah, and came from Tobiah to them.)

18 For many men were in Judah, that had his oath, *that is, (who) were sworn to him*; for he had wedded the daughter of Shechaniah, the son of Arah; and Johanan, his son, had taken the daughter of Meshullam, the son of Berechiah.

19 But also they praised him before me, and told my words to him; and Tobiah sent letters, to make me afeared. (And so they praised him in front of me, and told him all my words, *or what I had said*; and Tobiah also sent letters to me, to make me afraid.)

CHAPTER 7

1 And after that the wall of Jerusalem was builded, and I had set up the gates *thereof*, and had numbered the porters, and singers, and deacons, (And after that the wall of Jerusalem was rebuilt, and I had put up *its* gates, *or its doors*, and had appointed the guards, *or the doorkeepers*, and the singers, and the Levites.)

2 I commanded to Hanani, my brother, and to Hananiah, the prince of the house of Jerusalem (I put my brother Hanani, and Hananiah, the commander of the stronghold, *or the fortress*, in charge of Jerusalem); for he seemed a soothfast man, and dreading God more than other men *did*;

3 and I said to them, The gates of Jerusalem be not opened till to the heat of the sun (and I said to them, Do not let the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the heat of the sun); and, when I was yet present, the gates were closed, and locked. And I set keepers *thereof* (out) of the dwellers of Jerusalem, all men by their wives, *or times*, and each man over against his *own* house.

4 And the city was full broad and great, and little people in the midst thereof (but there were few people

NEHEMIAH

living there), and the houses were not yet builded.

5 And God gave in mine heart, and I gathered together the principal men, and (the) magistrates, and the common people, for to number them; and I found a book of the number[ing] of them, that had gone up first *from the captivity*. And it was found written therein, (And God put in my heart, to gather together the leaders, and the magistrates, and the common people, to list, *or to register*, them; and I found a book listing those who had first returned *from the captivity*. And I found written in it,)

6 These *be* the sons of the province, which went up from the captivity of men passing over *from Babylon to Jerusalem*, which Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had led over *into Babylon*; and they that were come with Zerubbabel turned again into Jerusalem and into Judah, each man to his city; (These *be* the sons of the province, who came back from the captivity, yea, the list of men returning *from Babylon to Jerusalem*, whom Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had led over *to Babylon*; they returned to Jerusalem and to Judah, each man to his own city;)

7 Joshua, *that is to say*, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, (and) Baanah. And the number of the men of the people of Israel *is this*; (and their leaders were Zerubbabel, Jeshua, *or Joshua*, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, and Baanah. And the number of the men of the people of Israel *was this*;)

8 the sons of Parosh, two thousand an hundred and two and seventy;

9 the sons of Shephatiah, three hundred and two and seventy;

10 the sons of Arah, six hundred and two and fifty;

11 the sons of Pahathmoab, of the sons of Jeshua and of Joab, two thousand eight hundred and eighteen;

12 the sons of Elam, a thousand eight hundred and four and fifty; (the sons of Elam, a thousand two hundred and fifty-four;)

13 the sons of Zattu, eight hundred and five and forty;

14 the sons of Zaccai, seven hundred and sixty;

15 the sons of Binnui, six hundred and eight and forty;

16 the sons of Bebai, six hundred and eight and twenty;

17 the sons of Azgad, two thousand three hundred and two and twenty;

18 the sons of Adonikam, six hundred and seven and sixty;

19 the sons of Bigvai, two thousand and seven and sixty;

20 the sons of Adin, six hundred and five and fifty;

21 the sons of Ater, the son of Hezekiah, eight and twenty; (the sons of Ater, also called Hezekiah, ninety-eight;)

22 the sons of Hashum, three hundred and eight and twenty;

23 the sons of Bezai, three hundred and four and twenty;

24 the sons of Hariph, an hundred and seven and twenty (a hundred and twelve);

25 the sons of Gibeon, five and twenty (ninety-five);

26 the men of Bethlehem and of Netophah, an hundred fourscore and eight;

27 the men of Anathoth, an hundred and eight and twenty;

28 the men of Bethazmaveth, two and forty;

29 the men of Kiriathjearim, of Chephirah, and (of) Beeroth, seven hundred and three and forty;

30 the men of Ramah and of Gaba, six hundred and one and twenty;

31 the men of Michmas, two hundred and two and twenty (one hundred and twenty-two);

32 the men of Bethel and of Ai, an hundred and three and twenty;

33 the men of the other Nebo, two and fifty;

34 the men of the other Elam, a thousand two hundred and four and fifty;

35 the sons of Harim, three hundred and twenty;

36 the sons of Jericho, three hundred and five and forty;

37 the sons of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred and one and twenty;

38 the sons of Senaah, three thousand nine hundred and thirty;

39 priests; the sons of Jedaiah, in the house of Joshua, nine hundred and four and seventy; (the priests; the sons of Jedaiah, of the house of Joshua, nine hundred and seventy-three;)

40 the sons of Immer, a thousand and two and fifty;

41 the sons of Pashur, a thousand two hundred and seven and forty;

42 the sons of Harim, a thousand and eighteen (a thousand and seventeen);

43 deacons; the sons of Joshua, and of Kadmiel, (of) the sons of Hodevah, four and seventy; (the Levites; the sons of Joshua, and of Kadmiel, of the house of Hodevah, seventy-four;)

NEHEMIAH

44 (the) singers; the sons of Asaph, an hundred and seven and forty (a hundred and forty-eight);

45 porters (the guards, *or the doorkeepers*); the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, the sons of Shobai, an hundred and eight and thirty;

46 Nethinims (the Temple workers); the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hashupha, the sons of Tabbaoth,

47 the sons of Keros, the sons of Sia, the sons of Padon,

48 the sons of Lebana, the sons of Hagaba, the sons of Shalmal,

49 the sons of Hanan, the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar,

50 the sons of Reaiah, the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda,

51 the sons of Gazzam, the sons of Uzza, the sons of Phaseah,

52 the sons of Besai, the sons of Meunim, sons of Nephishesim,

53 sons of Bakbuk, sons of Hakupha, sons of Harhur,

54 sons of Bazlith, sons of Mehida, sons of Harsha,

55 sons of Barkos, sons of Sisera, sons of Tamah,

56 sons of Nezhiah, sons of Hatipha;

57 (the) sons of the servants of Solomon; sons of Sotai, sons of Sophereth, sons of Perida,

58 sons of Jaala, sons of Darkon, sons of Giddel,

59 sons of Shephatiah, sons of Hattil, sons of Pochereth, which were born of Zebaim, (and) the son(s) of Amon; (the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth of Zebaim/the sons of Pochereth Hazzebaim, and the sons of Amon;)

60 all Nethinims, and the sons of the servants of Solomon, were three hundred and two and twenty/were three hundred and two and seventy. (all the Temple workers, and the sons of Solomon's servants, were three hundred and ninety-two.)

61 And these *that follow* be they that went up of the country of Telmelah, Telharesha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer; which might not show the house of their fathers, nor their seed, whether they were of Israel; (And these *who follow* be they who returned from the towns of Telmelah, Telharesha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer; but they could not prove their father's house, *or family*, or whether they were descendants of Israelites;)

62 the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, six hundred and two and forty;

63 and of the priests; the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, the sons of Barzillai, that took a wife of the

daughters of Barzillai of Gilead, and was called by the name of them; (and of the priests; the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, and the sons of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called by their name;)

64 these sought the scripture of their genealogy, and they found *it* not, and they were *therefore* cast out of (the) priesthood. (these men searched for their genealogy in the list, but they could not find *it*, and so they were thrown out of the priesthood.)

65 And (the) Tirshatha said to them, that they should not eat of the holy things of holy men, till that a wise priest rose up *among the people*. (And the governor said to them, that they could not eat the holy food of the offerings, until a priest rose up who could consult the Urim and the Thummim.)

66 All the multitude as one man, two and forty thousand six hundred and sixty, (So all the multitude together, were forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty,)

67 besides the servants and handmaids of them, which were seven thousand three hundred and seven and thirty; and among [them] the singers and singeresses, six hundred and five and forty. (besides their male and female slaves, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven; and they were two hundred and forty-five singers and singeresses.)

68 The horses of them, six hundred and six and thirty; the mules of them, two hundred and five and forty; (Their horses numbered seven hundred and thirty-six; their mules, two hundred and forty-five;)

69 the camels of them, four hundred and five and thirty; the asses of them, six thousand eight hundred and thirty. (their camels, four hundred and thirty-five; and their donkeys, six thousand seven hundred and twenty.)

70 Soothly some of the princes of the families gave costs into the work of God; (the) Tirshatha gave into the treasure, a thousand drachmas of gold/a thousand drams of gold, fifty vials, *or basins*, (and) five hundred and thirty coats of priests. (And some of the leaders of the families contributed to the costs, *or the expenses*, of the work of God; the governor gave to the treasury a thousand drachmas of gold, fifty basins, and five hundred and thirty priests' coats.)

71 And of the princes of families, they gave into the treasure of the work, twenty thousand drachmas of gold/twenty thousand drams of gold, and two thousand and two hundred bezants of silver. (And the leaders of

NEHEMIAH

the families, they gave to the treasury for the work, twenty thousand drachmas of gold, and two thousand and two hundred bezants of silver.)

72 And that that the residue people gave, twenty thousand drachmas of gold/twenty thousand drams of gold, and two thousand bezants of silver, and seven and sixty coats of priests. (And the rest of the people gave twenty thousand drachmas of gold, and two thousand bezants of silver, and sixty-seven priests' coats.)

73 Soothly [the] priests, and deacons, and porters, and singers, and the residue people, and Nethinims, and all Israel dwelled in their cities. And (*when*) the seventh month was come under Ezra and Nehemiah, soothly the sons of Israel were in their cities. (And so the priests, and the Levites, and the guards, *or the doorkeepers*, and the singers, and the rest of the people, and the Temple workers, yea, all Israel, lived in their *own* cities and towns. And when the seventh month had come under Ezra and Nehemiah, all the Israelites were in their cities.)

CHAPTER 8

1 And all the people was gathered together as one man, (in)to the street which is before the gate of waters. And they said to Ezra, the scribe, *or the writer*, that he should bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel. (And then all the people gathered together as one person, in the square in front of the Water Gate. And they said to Ezra, the writer/the teacher of the Law, that he should bring The Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel.)

2 Therefore Ezra, the priest, brought the law before the multitude of men and of women, and before all that might understand, in the first day of the seventh month. (And so Ezra, the priest, brought *The Book of the Law* before the multitude of men and women, yea, to all who might understand *it*, in the first day of the seventh month.)

3 And he read in it openly in the street that was before the gate of waters, from the morrowtide till to midday, in the sight of men and of women, and of wise men; and the ears of all the people were raised up to the book *to hear the law*. (And he read from it openly in the square that was in front of the Water Gate, from the morning until noon, before men and women, yea, to all who were wise enough to understand it; and the ears of all the people were attentive *to hear the Law* from the book.)

4 And Ezra the writer stood on the degrees of wood, that he had made to speak *upon to the people*; and

Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiah, and Maaseiah stood beside him, at his right half; and Pedaiah, Mishael, and Malchiah, Hashum, and Hashbadana, and Zechariah, and Meshullam, stood at the left half. (And Ezra the writer/the teacher of the Law stood on a wooden platform, made for him so that he could speak *to the people*; and Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Urijah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah stood beside him, at his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchiah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam, stood at his left hand.)

5 And Ezra opened the book before all the people; for he appeared over all the people; and when he had opened the book, all the people stood *to hear*. (And Ezra opened the book before all the people; for he was above all the people; and when he had opened the book, all the people stood up *to hear him*.)

6 And Ezra blessed the Lord God with great voice; and all the people answered, Amen, Amen, raising up their hands. And they were bowed, and they worshipped God, lowly upon the earth. (And Ezra blessed the Lord God, the great God; and all the people answered, Amen, Amen, and raised up their hands. And they bowed their heads, and then worshipped God, low upon the ground.)

7 And Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, deacons, made silence in the people, for to hear the law. And the people stood in their degree. (And then Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and Pelaiah, all Levites, expounded the Law to them. And all the people stood there in their places.)

8 And they read in the book of God's law distinctly, and openly, to understand it; and they understood, when it was read. (And they read from The Book of God's Law openly, and distinctly, and then expounded, *or explained*, it; and when it was read to the people in this way, they could understand it.)

9 Forsooth Nehemiah said, he is (the) Tirshatha, and Ezra, the priest and writer, and the deacons, expounding to all the people, This is a day hallowed to the Lord our God; do not ye mourn, and do not ye weep. For all the people wept, when it heard the words of the law. (And Nehemiah, he was the governor, and Ezra, the priest and writer/the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites, expounding *the Law* to all the people, said to them, This day is holy to the Lord our God; do not ye mourn, and do not ye weep. For all the people had wept, when they

NEHEMIAH

had heard the words of the Law.)

10 And he said to them, Go ye, and eat ye fat things, and drink ye wine made sweet with honey, and send ye parts to them, that made not ready to themselves, for it is an holy day of the Lord; do not ye be sorry, for the joy of the Lord is your strength. (And he said to them, Now go ye, and eat ye rich food, and drink ye mead, and send ye portions to those who cannot provide for themselves, for this day is holy to the Lord; do not ye be sorrowful, *or sad*, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.)

11 And the deacons made silence in all the people, and said, Be ye still, for this is an holy day, and make ye no sorrow. (And the Levites silenced all the people, and said, Be ye quiet, for this day is holy, and so do not ye be sad.)

12 Therefore all the people went for to eat, and (to) drink, and to send parts (and to send portions *to the needy*), and to make great gladness; for they understood the words, which he had taught them.

13 And in the second day, the princes of families, and all the peoples, priests, and deacons, were gathered to Ezra, the writer, that he should expound to them the words of the law. (And on the second day, the leaders of the families, and all the people, and the priests, and the Levites, were gathered before Ezra, the writer/the teacher of the Law, so that he could expound to them the words of the Law.)

14 And they found written in the law, that the Lord commanded in the hand of Moses, that the sons of Israel dwell in tabernacles in the solemn day(s), in the seventh month; (And they found written in the Law, that the Lord had commanded through Moses, that the Israelites should live in booths, *or shelters*, during the Feast of Tabernacles, *that is, the Harvest Festival*, in the seventh month;)

15 and that they (should) preach, and publish a voice in all their cities, and in Jerusalem; and say, Go ye out into the hill(s), and bring ye (back) boughs of the olive tree, and boughs of the fairest tree, the boughs of a myrtle tree, and the branches of a palm tree, and the boughs of a tree full of wood, that tabernacles be made *of the boughs*, as it is written (so that booths, *or shelters*, can be made *out of the boughs*, as it is written).

16 And all the people went out, and they brought (back) *with them boughs*, and they made to themselves tabernacles, each man in his house roof, and in their streets, *either foreyards*, and in the large places of God's house, and in the street of the gate of waters, and in the

street of the gate of Ephraim. (And all the people went out, and they brought back *some branches*, and made booths, *or shelters*, for themselves, yea, each person on the flat roof of his house, or in their yard, or in the courtyards of the House of God, or in the public squares by the Water Gate, and the Ephraim Gate.)

17 Therefore all the church, *or congregation*, of them, *that is, (all) the gathering together (of them)*, that came again from [the] captivity, made tabernacles, and they dwelled in *those* tabernacles. Certainly the sons of Israel had not done such things from the days of Joshua, the son of Nun, unto that day; and full great gladness was *there among them*. (And so all the congregation, *or the community*, of them, who had returned from the captivity, made booths, *or shelters*, and they lived in *those* shelters. And truly the Israelites had not done such things from the days of Joshua, the son of Nun, until that day; and so *there* was much gladness *among them*.)

18 And Ezra read in the book of God's law by all days *of the solemnity*, from the first day unto the last day; and they made the solemnity by seven days; and in the eighth day *they made* a gathering, (*or collection*), of silver, by the custom. (And Ezra read from The Book of God's Law for all the days *of the Feast, or the Festival*, from the first day until the last day; and they held the Feast for seven days; and then on the eighth day *they held* a closing ceremony, as was the custom.)

CHAPTER 9

1 Forsooth in the four and twentieth day of this month, the sons of Israel came together in fasting, and in sackcloths, and earth was on them. (Now on the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites came together in sackcloths, with earth on their heads, for a fast, to show remorse for their sins.)

2 And the seed of the sons of Israel was separated from each alien man. And they stood before the Lord, and acknowledged their sins, and the wickednesses of their fathers. (And the descendants of the Israelites separated themselves from every foreigner. And they stood before the Lord, and confessed their sins, and the wickednesses of their forefathers.)

3 And they rose together to stand; and they read in the book of the law of the Lord their God four times in the day, and four times in the night; they acknowledged, and praised the Lord their God. (And they stood up in their places; and The Book of the Law of the Lord their God was read to them for one fourth, *or one quarter*, of

NEHEMIAH

the day; and then for another fourth, *or quarter*, they confessed *their sins*, and praised the Lord their God.)

4 Forsooth they rised [up] on the degree, of (the) deacons, Jeshua, and Bani, Kadmiel, Bunni, Shebaniah, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani. And the deacons cried with great voice to their Lord God. (And then Jeshua, and Bani, Kadmiel, Bunni, Shebaniah, Sherebiah, another Bani, and Chenani stood on the platform built for the Levites. And they cried aloud to the Lord their God.)

5 And (the deacons,) Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, Rise ye (up), and bless ye the Lord your God, from without beginning and till into without end; and *Lord*, bless they the high name of thy glory in all blessing and praising. (And the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, Rise ye up, and bless ye the Lord your God, forever and ever; yea, *Lord*, bless they thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.)

6 Thou thyself, Lord, art alone/Thou thyself, Lord, art alone *God*; thou madest heaven, and the heaven of heavens, and all the host of those *heavens*; *thou madest* the earth and all things that be therein; *thou madest* the seas and all things that be in them; and thou quickenest all these things; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee. (Thou thyself, art Lord alone/Thou thyself, Lord, art *God* alone; thou madest the heavens, yea, the highest heavens, and all the stars of the sky; *thou madest* the earth and all the things that be on it; *thou madest* the seas and all the things that be in them; and thou quickenest all these things; and the host of heaven, *that is, the heavenly powers*, worshippeth thee.)

7 Thou thyself *art* the Lord God, that choosedest Abram, and leddest him out of the fire of Chaldees, and thou settedest, *or calledest*, his name Abraham; (Thou thyself *art* the Lord God, who chosest Abram, and leddest him out of Ur of the Chaldeans, and thou calledest his name Abraham;)

8 and foundest his heart faithful before thee, and thou hast smitten with him a bond of peace, that thou wouldest give to him the land of Canaanites, of Hittites, of Hivites, of Amorites, and of Perizzites, and of Jebusites, and of Girgashites, that thou wouldest give it to his seed; and thou hast fulfilled thy words, for thou art just. (and foundest that his heart was faithful before thee, and so thou madest a covenant with him, that thou wouldest give him the land of the Canaanites, and

Hittites, Hivites, and Amorites, Perizzites, Jebusites, and Girgashites, yea, that thou wouldest give it all to his descendants; and thou hast fulfilled thy words, for thou art just.)

9 And thou hast seen the torment of our fathers in Egypt, and thou heardest the cry of them upon the Red Sea. (And thou saw the torment of our forefathers in Egypt, and thou heardest their cries at the Red Sea, *or the Sea of Reeds*.)

10 And thou hast given signs and great wonders in Pharaoh, and in all his servants, and in all the people of that land; for thou knowest, that they did proudly against our fathers; and thou madest to thee a name, as also (it is) in this day. (And thou gavest signs and great wonders against Pharaoh, and against all his servants, and against all the people of that land; for thou knewest, that they did proudly against our forefathers; and thou madest a name for thyself, as it is unto this day.)

11 And thou partedest the sea before them, and they passed through the midst of the sea in the dry place; and thou castedest down the pursuers of them into the depth, as a stone in strong waters. (And thou partedest the Red Sea before them, and they passed through the middle of it on dry land; and thou threwest down their pursuers into the depths, like a stone thrown into mighty waters.)

12 And in a pillar of cloud thou were the leader of them by day, and in a pillar of fire by night, that the way, by which they entered, should appear to them. (And thou wast their leader by a pillar of cloud in the day, and by a pillar of fire in the night, so that the way by which they should go, was clear to them.)

13 Also thou camest down at the hill of Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and thou gavest to them rightful dooms, and the law of truth, ceremonies, and good commandments. (And thou camest down upon Mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and thou gavest them right judgements, and true laws, and good statutes, and commandments.)

14 And thou showedest to them an hallowed sabbath; and thou commandedest to them commandments, and ceremonies, and law, in the hand of Moses, thy servant. (And thou toldest them of thy holy Sabbath; and thou commandedest to them commandments, and statutes, and laws, through thy servant Moses.)

15 And thou gavest to them bread from heaven in their hunger; and thou leddest out of the stone water to them (who were) thirsting; and thou saidest to them, that they should enter, and have in possession the land, upon the

NEHEMIAH

which *land* thou raisedest up thine hand, that thou shouldest give *it* to them. (And thou gavest them bread, *or manna*, from heaven for their hunger; and thou leddest out water from the stone for those who were thirsting; and thou saidest to them, that they should go in, and take possession of the land, on which *land* thou raisedest up thy hand, and swore, that thou would give *it* to them.)

16 But they and our fathers did proudly, and made hard their nolls, and heard not thy commandments. (But they, our forefathers, did proudly, and were stiff-necked, *or stubborn*, and would not obey thy commandments.)

17 And they would not hear; and they had not mind of thy marvels, which thou haddest done to them; and they made hard their nolls; and they gave the head, that they were all-turned to their servage as by strife; but thou *art* God (who is) helpful, meek, and merciful, abiding long, *either patient*, and of much merciful doing, and forsookest not them; (Yea, they would not obey; and they did not remember thy marvels, which thou didest for them; and they stiffened their necks, *and were stubborn*; and they rebelled, and ordained a leader to take them back to their servitude, *or their slavery*; but thou *art* a helpful God, meek, and merciful, long abiding, *or patient*, and of great mercy, and thou didest not abandon them;)

18 and when they had made to them a molten calf, as by strife, and had said, This is thy God, *Israel*, that led thee out of Egypt, and they did great blasphemies *to thy name*. (even when they made for themselves a metal idol, yea, a calf, and said, Israel, this is thy god, that led thee out of Egypt, and they did great blasphemies *to thy name*.)

19 But thou, *Lord*, in thy many mercies leftest, *or forsookest*, not them in (the) desert; for a pillar of cloud went not away from them by the day, that it should lead them into the way *whither they were to go*; and the pillar of fire *went not away from them* by night, that it should show to them the way, by which they should enter. (Yet thou, *Lord*, in thy many mercies, did not leave, *or forsake*, them in the desert; for the pillar of cloud went not away from them in the day, so that it could lead them in the way *that they should to go*; and the pillar of fire *went not away from them* in the night, so that it could also show them the way that they should go.)

20 And thou gavest to them thy good Spirit, that taught them; and thou forbadeest not thine angel's meat, (*or thy manna*), from their mouth(s), and thou gavest to them water in *their* thirst (and thou gavest them water for *their*

thirst).

21 Forty years thou feddest them in (the) desert, and nothing failed to them (and nothing failed for them); their clothes waxed not eld, and their feet were not hurt, (*or swollen*).

22 And thou gavest to them realms, and peoples; and thou partedest lots, *either heritages*, to them, and they had in possession the land of Sihon, and the land of the king of Heshbon, and the land of Og, king of Bashan. (And thou gavest kingdoms, and peoples to them; and thou partedest to them lots, *or inheritances*, and they took possession of the land of Sihon, the king of Heshbon, and the land of Og, the king of Bashan.)

23 And thou multipliedest the sons of them, as the stars of heaven/as the stars of the firmament; and thou broughtest them to the land, of which thou saidest to their fathers, that they should enter, and hold it in possession. (And thou multipliedest their sons, so that they be *in number* like the stars of the heavens/like the stars in the sky; and thou broughtest them to the land, of which thou saidest to their fathers, that they should enter, and take possession of it.)

24 And the sons of Israel came, and had the land in possession; and before them thou madest low the dwellers of the land, (the) Canaanites; and thou gavest them into the hands of the sons of Israel, and the kings of them, and the peoples of the land, that they did to them, as it pleased them. (And the Israelites came, and took possession of the land; and thou madest the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land, low before them; thou gavest them into the hands of the Israelites, yea, *thou gavest them* their kings, and the peoples of the land, and then *Israel* did to them, whatever it pleased them to do.)

25 And they took cities made strong, and (a) fat earth; and they had in possession houses full of all goods, cisterns made of other men, vineries, and places of olives, and many apple trees. And they ate, and were fulfilled, and were made fat; and had plenty of riches in thy great goodness. (And they took over fortified cities, and a fertile land; and they took possession of houses full of all kinds of goods, and cisterns made by other men, and vineyards, and olives groves, and many apple trees. And they ate, and were fulfilled, and made fat, and had plenty of riches by thy great goodness.)

26 And yet they stirred thee to wrathfulness, and went away from thee, and casted away thy law behind their backs; and they killed thy prophets, that witnessed to them, that they should turn again to thee; and they did

NEHEMIAH

great blasphemies. (And yet they stirred thee to great anger, and went away from thee, and threw away thy Law behind their backs; and they killed thy prophets, who witnessed to them, that they should return to thee; and they did great blasphemies.)

27 And thou gavest them into the hand(s) of their enemies; and they tormented them; and in the time of their tribulation they cried to thee; and thou heardest them from heaven, and by thy many merciful doings thou gavest them saviours, that saved them from the hand of their enemies (who saved them from the hands, *or the power*, of their enemies).

28 And when they had rested, they turned again to do evil in thy sight; and thou forsookest them in the hand of their enemies, and (their) enemies had them in possession; then they were turned again *to thee*, and cried to thee; and in thy mercy doing thou heardest them from heaven, and deliveredest them by many times. (And after they had rested, *or had stopped for a while*, again they turned to do evil before thee; and thou abandonedest them into the hands of their enemies, and their enemies subjugated them; then they turned again *to thee*, and cried to thee; and thou heardest them from heaven, and many times in thy mercy thou deliveredest them.)

29 And thou witnessedest to them, that they should turn again to thy law; but they did proudly, and heard not thy behests, and sinned in thy dooms, which a man that shall do *(them)*, shall live in those; but they gave their shoulder and went away, and they made hard their nolls, *and would not obey to thy dooms*. (And thou witnessedest to them, that they should return to thy Law; but they did proudly, and would not listen to thy commandments, and sinned against thy judgements, which if a man shall do them, he shall live; but instead, they gave their shoulder *to you* and went away, and they were stiff-necked, *or stubborn, and would not obey thy judgements*.)

30 And thou drewest along many years upon them, and thou witnessedest to them in thy Spirit, by the hand, *or telling*, of thy prophets, *that they were law-breakers*; and they heard *them* not; and *therefore* thou gavest them into the hand of the peoples of (the) lands. (And thou wast patient with them for many years, and thou witnessedest to them by thy Spirit, through the words of thy prophets, *that they were Law-breakers*; but they did not listen to *them*; and so thou gavest them into the hands of the peoples of the lands.)

31 But in thy mercies full many, thou madest not them *to be* into wasting, neither thou forsookest them; for thou art God of merciful doings, and meek. (But in thy very many mercies, thou didest not destroy them, nor abandonedest them; for thou art a merciful and gracious God.)

32 Now therefore, our Lord God, great God, strong, and fearedful, keeping covenant and mercy, turn thou not away thy face *from us* in all the travail that hath found us, our kings, and our princes, and our fathers, and our priests, and our prophets, and all thy people, from the days of king Assur till to this day. (And so now, Lord our God, the great God, strong, and fearful, keeping covenant and mercy, turn thou not away thy face *from us* in all the travail that hath found us, yea, our kings, and our leaders, our fathers, and our priests, our prophets, and all thy people, from the days of the kings of Assyria until this day.)

33 And *Lord*, thou art just in all (the) things, that came [up]on us, for thou didest truth(fully) to us; but we have done wickedly.

34 And our kings, and our princes, and our priests, and our fathers, have not done thy law; and they perceived not thy behests and thy witnessings, which thou hast witnessed in thy behests. (And our kings, and our leaders, and our priests, and our fathers, have not obeyed thy Law; and they did not heed thy commandments and thy testimonies, which thou witnessed to them.)

35 And they, in their good realms, and in thy much goodness which thou gavest to them, and in the full large land and fat, which thou haddest given in the sight of them, served not thee, neither turned again from their worst studies. (And they, in their kingdoms/with their kings, and in the great goodness, *or prosperity*, which thou gavest them, and in the very broad and fertile land, which thou gavest them, served thee not, nor turned away from their evil doings.)

36 Lo! we ourselves be thralls to day; and the land which thou gavest to our fathers, that they should eat the bread thereof, and the goods that be thereof, *is thrall*; and we ourselves be thralls, *either bondmen*, in that land. (Lo! we ourselves be slaves today, in the land which thou gavest to our forefathers, so that they could eat its bread, and enjoy its good things; yea, we ourselves be slaves, *or bondsmen*, here in this land.)

37 And the fruits thereof be multiplied to (the) kings, which thou hast set upon us for our sins; and they be lords of our bodies, and of our beasts, by their will, and

NEHEMIAH

we be in great tribulation. (And its fruits be multiplied, but only unto the kings whom thou hast put upon us for our sins; and they be lords of us, and of our beasts, at their pleasure, and we be in great tribulation.)

38 Therefore on all these things we ourselves smite and write (a) bond of peace, and our princes, our deacons, and our priests aseal (*it*). (And so for all these things, we hereby make a covenant in writing, and our leaders, and our Levites, and our priests, put their seals to *it*.)

CHAPTER 10

1 And the sealers were Nehemiah, *that is*, Tirshatha (*that is*, the governor), the son of Hachaliah, and Zidkijah,
2 Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremy [Jeremiah],
3 Pashur, Amariah, Malchijah,
4 Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch,
5 Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah,
6 Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch,
7 Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin,
8 Maaziah, Bilgai, and Shemaiah; these were (the) priests.

9 And the deacons were Joshua, [*or Jeshua*,] the son of Azaniah (And the Levites were Jeshua, the son of Azaniah), Binnui, of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel,
10 and his brethren, Shebaniah, Hodijah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan, (and their kinsmen, Shebaniah, Hodijah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan,)

11 Micha, Rehob, Hashabiah,
12 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah,
13 Hodijah, Bani, Beninu.

14 And the chief men of the people were Parosh, Pahathmoab, Elam, Zatthu, Bani, (And the leaders of the people were Parosh, Pahathmoab, Elam, Zatthu, Bani,)

15 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai,
16 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin,
17 Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur,
18 Hodijah, Hashum, Bezai,
19 Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai,
20 Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir,
21 Meshezabeel, Zadok, Jaddua,
22 Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah,
23 Hoshea, Hananiah, Hashub,
24 Hallohesh, Pileha, Shobek,
25 Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah,
26 Ahijah, Hanan, Anan,
27 Malluch, Harim, Baanah;

28 and others of the people, priests, deacons, porters, and singers, Nethinims, and all men that separated

themselves from the peoples of (the) lands to the law of God, the wives of them, the sons of them, and the daughters of them; all that might understand, (and the others of the people/and so all the people, yea, the priests, the Levites, the guards, *or the doorkeepers*, the singers, and the Temple workers, with their wives, and their sons, and their daughters; yea, all who could understand, and have separated themselves from the people of the lands, in obedience to the Law of God,)

29 promising for their brethren, the principal men of them, and they that came *thither* to promise, and to swear, that they should go in the law of the Lord, which he gave by the hand of Moses, his servant, and that they should do and keep all the behests of the Lord our God, and his dooms, and his ceremonies; (promise with their kinsmen, yea, their leaders, and swear, to go in the Law of the Lord, which he gave by the hand of his servant Moses, and to keep and to obey all the commandments of the Lord our God, and his judgements, and his statutes;)

30 and that we should not give our daughters to the people of the land, and that we should not take their daughters to our sons. (and that we shall not give our daughters *to be wives* for the peoples of the land, and that we shall not take their daughters *as wives* for our sons.)

31 Also the peoples of the land, that bring in things set to sale, and all things to use, by the day of sabbath, for to sell, we shall not take of them in the sabbath, and in a day hallowed; and we shall leave (the land) *without tilth and sowing and gathering*, the seventh year, and the asking of all hand, *that is*, (to) *release debts*, and (to) *deliver (our) Hebrew servants*. (And if the peoples of the land bring in food, and things to sell, on the Sabbath day, we shall not buy anything from them on the Sabbath, or on any other holy day. And in the seventh year, we shall leave the land *without tilth, or sowing, or gathering*, and we shall leave off asking for repayment of all manner of debt, *that is*, we shall *discharge all debts*, and also set free our Hebrew slaves.)

32 And also we shall ordain upon us commandments, that by each year we give the third part of a shekel to the work of the Lord our God, (And we shall ordain the command upon us, that each year we give the third part of a shekel to the work of the Lord our God,)

33 to the loaves of setting forth, and to the everlasting sacrifice, and into burnt sacrifice everlasting, in sabbaths, in calends, *that is*, (the) *beginnings of months*, in solemnities, in hallowed days, and for sin, that prayer be

NEHEMIAH

made for Israel, and into all the uses of the house of our God. (for the loaves of setting forth, that is, *the loaves of proposition*, and the everlasting offering, and the everlasting burnt sacrifice, for the Sabbaths, and the calends, *that is, the beginning of months*, and the Feasts, *or the Festivals*, and the holy gifts, and the sin offerings, to make amends for Israel, and for all the needs in the House of our God.)

34 Also we casted lots on the offering of wood, betwixt priests and deacons and the people, that those should be brought into the house of our God, by the families of our fathers in *certain* times, from the times of a year *sufficient* unto a year, that that *wood* should burn upon the altar of the Lord our God, as it is written in the law of Moses; (And we, the priests, and the Levites, and the people, have thrown lots for the wood offering, so that it can be brought into the House of our God, by the families of our fathers, each in their turn, at certain times year after year, to burn on the altar of the Lord our God, as it is written in the Law;)

35 and that we bring the first engendered things of our land, and the first fruits of all fruit of each tree, from year into year, into the house of the Lord, (and we shall bring the first fruits of our land, and the first fruits of every fruit tree, year after year, to the House of our God,)

36 and the first begotten things of our sons, and of our beasts, as it is written in the law, and the first begotten things of our oxen, and of our sheep, that those be offered in the house of our God, to priests that minister in the house of our God; (and also the first-born of our sons, and of our beasts, as it is written in the Law, yea, the first-born of our oxen, and of our sheep, we shall bring all these things to the House of our God, unto the priests who minister in the House of our God;)

37 and we shall bring the first fruits of our meats, and of our moist sacrifices, and the fruits of each tree, and of vintage, and of oil, to [the] priests, at the chamber of the (house of the) Lord, and the tenth part of our land to (the) deacons; those deacons shall take tithes of all the cities of our works. (and we shall also bring to the priests the first fruits of our dough, and of our other offerings, yea, the fruits of each tree, and of wine, and of oil, to the storerooms of the House of our God; and we shall bring to the Levites the tenth part, *or the tithes*, from our land, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes from all the cities about our farms.)

38 And a priest, the son of Aaron, shall be with the deacons in the tithes of (the) deacons; and the deacons

shall offer the tenth part of their tithe in the house of our God, at the chamber(s), in the house of treasure. (And a priest, the son of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when they collect the tithes; and the Levites shall bring the tenth part of all the tithes, *that is, a tithe of the tithes*, to the House of our God, to the rooms in the storehouse.)

39 For the sons of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the first fruits of wheat, of wine, and of oil *to that place*; and hallowed vessels shall be there, and priests, and singers, and porters, and ministers; and we shall not forsake the house of our God. (For the Israelites and the Levites shall bring the first fruits of corn, *or of grain*, and of wine, and of oil *to that place*; and the vessels of the sanctuary, and the ministering priests, and the singers, and the guards, *or the doorkeepers*, shall also be there; and we shall not desert, *or neglect*, the House of our God.)

CHAPTER 11

1 Forsooth the princes of the people dwelled in Jerusalem; but the residue people sent lot, for to take one part of ten, which should dwell in Jerusalem, in the holy city; and the (other) nine parts *dwelled* in *other* cities. (Now the leaders of the people lived in Jerusalem; but the rest of the people cast lots, to take one part in ten, as to who would live in Jerusalem, in the holy city; and those who took the other nine parts *lived* in the *other* cities.)

2 And the people blessed all men, that proffered themselves by free will to dwell in Jerusalem. (And the people blessed all those, who freely offered themselves to live in Jerusalem.)

3 And so these be the princes of the province, that dwelled in Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah; and each man dwelled in his possession, in their cities of Israel, *that is*, priests, deacons, Nethinims, and the sons of the servants of Solomon. (And so these named below be the leaders of the province, who lived in Jerusalem; and the other Israelites lived in the other cities of Judah, *that is*, the priests, the Levites, the Temple workers, and the sons of Solomon's servants, each on his own property, in their own cities.)

4 And (these be the) men of the sons of Judah, and of the sons of Benjamin (who) dwelled in Jerusalem; of the sons of Judah; Athaiah, the son of Uziah, son of Zechariah, son of Amariah, son of Shephatiah, son of Mahalaleel, of the sons of Perez;

5 (and) Maaseiah, the son of Baruch, the son of Colhozeh, the son of Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son

NEHEMIAH

of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, the son of Shilonites (of the sons of Shelah);

6 all the sons of Perez, that dwelled in Jerusalem, were four hundred eight and sixty, strong men. (and all the sons of Perez, who lived in Jerusalem, were four hundred and sixty-eight strong men.)

7 And these be 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 Jesaiah;

8 and after him Gabbai, Sallai, ninety and eight and twenty; (and after him Gabbai, and Sallai, nine hundred and twenty-eight in all;)

9 and Joel, the son of Zichri, was the sovereign of them, and Judah, the son of Senuah, was the second man on the city. (and Joel, the son of Zichri, was their ruler, and Judah, the son of Senuah, was the second in charge over the city.)

10 And of (the) priests; Jedaiah, the son of Joiarib, (and) Jachin,

11 Seraiah, the son of Hilkiyah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, *these were* princes of the house of God, (and Seraiah, the son of Hilkiyah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, and *he* was the ruler of the House of God.)

12 and their brethren, making the works of the temple, were eight hundred and two and twenty (and his kinsmen, who did the work in the Temple, were eight hundred and twenty-two). And Adaiah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Pelaliah, the son of Amzi, the son of Zechariah, the son of Pashur, the son of Malchiah,

13 and the brethren of them, the princes of (the) fathers, were two hundred and two and forty (and his kinsmen, the leaders of the families, were two hundred and forty-two). And Amashai, the son of Azareel, the son of Ahasai, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer,

14 and their brethren, full mighty men, were an hundred and eight and twenty; and the sovereign of them was Zabdiel, the son of (one of the) mighty men. (and his kinsmen, very mighty men, were a hundred and twenty-eight; and their leader was Zabdiel, the son of Haggadolim.)

15 And of deacons (And of the Levites); Shemaiah, the son of Hashub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni;

16 and Shabbethai, and Jozabad was *ordained* of the princes of deacons, upon all the works that were *done*

withoutforth in God's house. (and Shabbethai, and Jozabad, of the leaders of the Levites, *who were ordained* upon all the work that was *done* outside the House of God.)

17 And Mattaniah, the son of Micha, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, was (the) prince *in God's house*, to praise and acknowledge *to him* in prayer; and Bakkukiah was the second of his brethren, and Abda, the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun. (And Mattaniah, the son of Micha, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, led the Temple choir in singing the prayer of thanksgiving; and Bakkukiah was the second among his kinsmen, and Abda, the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun.)

18 All the deacons in the holy city, were two hundred fourscore and four. (In all, there were two hundred and eighty-four Levites in the holy city.)

19 And the porters, Akkub, Talmon, and the brethren of them, that kept the doors *of the temple*, were an hundred and two and seventy. (And the guards, *or the doorkeepers*, who kept guard at the *Temple* gates, were Akkub, Talmon, and their kinsmen, a hundred and seventy-two.)

20 And other men of Israel, priests, and deacons, in all the cities of Judah, each man in his possession. (And the other Israelites, and priests, and Levites, lived in all the other cities of Judah, each man on his own property.)

21 And [the] Nethinims, that dwelled in Ophel; and Ziha and Gishpa of [the] Nethinims. (And the Temple workers lived in the part of Jerusalem called Ophel; and Ziha and Gishpa were their leaders, *or their overseers*.)

22 And (the) sovereign of deacons in Jerusalem (was) Uzzi, the son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micha. (He was) Of the sons of Asaph, singers in the service of God's house. (And the leader of the Levites in Jerusalem was Uzzi, the son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micha. He was of the sons of Asaph, who were singers in service/in the services in the House of God.)

23 For the command of the king was on them, and an order was in singers by all days; (For by an order, the king commanded them to provide singers every day.)

24 and Pethahiah, the son of Meshezabeel, of the sons of Zerah, the son of Judah, in the hand of the king, by each word of the people; (And Pethahiah, the son of Meshezabeel, of the sons of Zerah, the son of Judah, was at the king's hand on all matters concerning the people.)

25 and in the houses by all the countries of them.

NEHEMIAH

(Some) Of the sons of Judah dwelled in Kiriatharba, and in the villages thereof, and in Dibon, and in the villages thereof, and in Jekabzeel, and in the towns thereof; (And of the towns in the countryside, some of the sons of Judah lived in Kiriatharba, and in its villages, and in Dibon, and in its villages, and in Jekabzeel, and in its villages;)

26 and in Jeshua, and in Moladah, and in Bethphelet,
27 and in Hazarshual, and in Beersheba, and in the villages thereof (and in their villages);

28 and in Ziklag, and in Mekonah, and in the villages thereof (and in their villages);

29 and in Enrimmon, and in Zareah, and in Jarmuth,
30 in Zanoah, in Adullam, and in the towns thereof; in Lachish, and in the country(side) thereof; in Azekah, and in the villages thereof; and they dwelled in Beersheba till to the valley of Hinnom. (and in Zanoah, and in Adullam, and in their villages; and in Lachish, and in its countryside; and in Azekah, and in its villages; and so they lived in the land from Beersheba unto the Hinnom Valley.)

31 And the sons of Benjamin *dwelled* in Geba, Michmash, and Aija, and Bethel, and in the villages thereof; (And the sons of Benjamin *lived* in Geba, Michmash, Aija, and Bethel, and in their villages;)

32 in Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah,

33 Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim,

34 Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat,

35 Lod, and in Ono, the valley of craftsmen. (and Lod, and Ono, and in the Craftsmen's Valley.)

36 And of the deacons, (were) the portions of Judah and of Benjamin. (And some of Levites, who were in Judah, were assigned to live with the people of Benjamin.)

CHAPTER 12

1 Soothly these were [the] priests and [the] deacons, that went up with Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, and with Joshua; Seraiah, Jeremy [Jeremiah], Ezra, (And these were the priests and the Levites, who went up with Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua, *or Joshua*; Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra,)

2 Amariah, Malluch, Hattush,

3 Shechaniah, Rehum, Meremoth,

4 Iddo, Ginnetho, Miamin,

5 Abiah, Maadiah, Bilgah,

6 Shemaiah, and Joarib, Jedaiah,

7 Sallu, Amok, Hilkiah, and Jedaiah; these were the princes of priests and their brethren, in the days of

Joshua. (Sallu, Amok, Hilkiah, and Jedaiah; these were the leaders of the priests and their kinsmen, in the days of Jeshua, *or Joshua*.)

8 Certainly deacons; Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, (and) Mattaniah, were over the hymns, they and their brethren; (And the Levites; Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, who with his kinsmen, *led* the hymns;)

9 and Bakkukiah, and Unni, and the brethren of them, each man in his office. (and Bakkukiah, and Unni, and their kinsmen, who sang the response.)

10 And Joshua begat Joiakim (And Jeshua begat Joiakim), and Joiakim begat Eliashib, and Eliashib begat Joiada,

11 and Joiada begat Jonathan, and Jonathan begat Jaddua.

12 And in the days of Joiakim *these* were the priests, and the princes of the families *of priests*; Seraiah, Meraiah; Jeremy, Hananiah; (And in the days of Joiakim *these* were the priests, and the leaders of the *priestly* families; of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah;)

13 (of) Ezra, Meshullam; (of) Amariah, Jehohanan;

14 (of) Melicu, Jonathan; (of) Shebaniah, Joseph;

15 (of) Harim, Adna; (of) Meraioth, Helkai;

16 (of) Iddo, Zechariah; (of) Ginnethon, Meshullam;

17 (of) Abiah, Zichri; (of) Miniamin, ⁽¹⁾; and (of) Moadiah, Piltai;

18 (of) Bilgah, Shammua; (of) Shemaiah, Jehonathan;

19 (of) Joarib, Mattenai; (of) Jedaiah, Uzzi;

20 (of) Sallai, Kallai; (of) Amok, Eber;

21 (of) Hilkiah, Hashabiah; (of) Jedaiah, Nethaneel.

22 Deacons in the days of Eliashib, and of Joiada, and of Johanan, and of Jaddua, were written princes of families, and priests, in the realm of Darius *king* of Persia. (The leaders of the priestly families, in the days of Eliashib, and Joiada, and Johanan, and Jaddua, were written down until the reign of Darius the Persian.)

23 The sons of Levi, princes of families, were written in the book of the words of days, and unto the days of Johanan, the son of Eliashib. (But the leaders of the Levite families were written down in The Book of the Words of the Days, that is, *in The Official Annals*, only until the days of Johanan, the son of Eliashib.)

24 And the princes of deacons were Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua, the son of Kadmiel; and the brethren of them by their wives *or times*, that they

¹ A name is missing here in both the Hebrew and the Greek texts of the Tanakh ('the Old Testament').

NEHEMIAH

should praise and acknowledge by the commandment of king David, the man of God, and they should keep evenly by order. (And the leaders of the Levites were Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua, the son of Kadmiel, who, along with their kinsmen, gave praise and thanks, each in their turn, the one group answering the other, by the command of King David, the man of God.)

25 Mattaniah, and Bakbukiah, and Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, (and) Akkub, were keepers of the gates, and of the porches before the gates. (Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were the guards, *or the doorkeepers*, standing guard at the gate-houses.)

26 These *men* were (serving) in the days of Joiakim, the son of Joshua, son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah, the duke, and of Ezra, the priest and writer. (These *men* served in the days of Joiakim, the son of Joshua, *or Joshua*, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah, the governor, and of Ezra, the priest and writer/the priest and teacher of the Law.)

27 Forsooth in the hallowing of the wall of Jerusalem they sought (out the) deacons of all their places, to bring them into Jerusalem, and to make the hallowing in gladness, in the doing of thankings, and in song, and in cymbals, and in psalteries, and in harps. (And for the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, they sought out the Levites in all the places where they were, to bring them to Jerusalem, to celebrate the dedication with gladness, and thanksgiving, and with songs, and cymbals, and lutes, and harps.)

28 And the sons of (the) singers were gathered together, both from the field places about Jerusalem, and from the towns of Netophathi (and from the towns of the Netophathites),

29 and from the house of Gilgal, and from the country(sides) of Geba, and of Azmaveth; for the singers had builded towns to themselves in the compass of Jerusalem (for the singers had built towns for themselves all around Jerusalem).

30 And [the] priests and deacons were cleansed, and *then* they cleansed the people, and the gates, and the wall. (And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and *then* they purified the people, and the gates, and the wall.)

31 And I made the princes of Judah to go up on the wall, and I ordained two great choirs, *or companies*, of men praising *the Lord*; and they went to the right side on the wall, to the gate of the dunghill. (And I brought the

leaders of Judah up onto the wall, and I ordained two great choirs, *or companies*, of men to give praise *to the Lord*; and the first group went up on the wall to the right side, toward the Dung Gate.)

32 And Hoshaiah went after them, and the half part of the princes of Judah (and half of the leaders of Judah),

33 and Azariah, Ezra, and Meshullam,

34 Judah, and Benjamin, and Shemaiah, and Jeremy. [Judah, and Benjamin, and Shemaiah, and Jeremiah.]

35 And of the sons of priests *singing* in trumps; Zechariah, the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Michaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph. (And then came some of the priests *blowing* trumpets; namely, Zechariah, the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Michaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph;)

36 And his brethren; Shemaiah, and Azarael, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethaneel, and Judah, and Hanani, in the instruments of song of David, the man of God; and Ezra, the writer, before them, (and his kinsmen; Shemaiah, Azarael, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethaneel, Judah, and Hanani, with the musical instruments of David, the man of God; and Ezra, the writer/the teacher of the Law, went before them.)

37 in the gate of the well. And (the) men went up (over) against them, in the degrees of the city of David, in the going up of the wall, over the house of David, and unto the gate of the waters at the east *coast*. (And they went past the Fountain Gate, and then up the steps to the City of David, by the ascent to the city wall, past the house of David, and on to the Water Gate on the east *side*.)

38 And the second choir of men telling out thankings went over against (them), *or on the other side*, and I went after them; and half part of the people was on the wall, and on the tower of (the) ovens, and *they went* unto the broadest wall; (And the second choir of men who gave thanks went to the other side, *that is, to the left*, along the top of the wall, and I went after them, with half of the people; and *they went* past the Tower of the Ovens, *or the Tower of the Furnaces*, unto the Broad Wall;)

39 and over the gate of Ephraim, and over the eld gate, and over the gate of fishes, and over the tower of Hananeel, and over the tower of Meah, and they came unto the gate of (the) flock; and they stood still in the gate of keeping. (and then past the Ephraim Gate, and the Old Gate, *or the Jeshanah Gate*, and the Fish Gate, and the Tower of Hananeel, and the Tower of the Hundred, to

NEHEMIAH

the Sheep Gate; and they stopped at the Gate of the Guardhouse/and they stopped near the Temple Gate.)

40 And the two choirs of men praising stood in the house of God, and I and the half part of (the) magistrates with me. (And then the two choirs of men who gave praise took their places in the House of God, along with me and half of the magistrates;)

41 And the priests, Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Michaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, Hananiah, in trumps; (and the priests, Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Michaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, who were blowing their trumpets;)

42 and (also) Maaseiah, and Shemaiah, and Eleazar, and Uzzi, and Jehohanan, and Malchijah, and Elam, and Ezer; and the singers sang clearly, and Jezrahiah, their sovereign *also* (and the singers, led by Jezrahiah, who sang clearly, and loudly).

43 And they offered in that day great sacrifices, and were glad; for God had made them glad with great gladness. But also their wives and their lawful children were joyful, and the gladness of Jerusalem was heard [a]far. (And that day, they offered great, *or many*, sacrifices, and were joyful; for God had made them very happy. And also their wives and their children were full of joy, and the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off.)

44 Also they numbered in that day the men *that were* over the keeping places of the treasure(s), to *receive* (the) moist sacrifices, and the first fruits, and (the) tithes, that in (the) seemliness, or fairness, of doing of thankings *to the Lord*, (the) princes of the city should bring in by them, (for the) priests and deacons; for Judah was glad in (the) priests and deacons (that were) present. (And on that day men were ordained to take charge of the storerooms for the contributions, that is, to *receive* the offerings, and the first fruits, and the tithes; they were to gather in the portions, required by the Law, from all the fields near the cities, for the priests and the Levites; for all Judah was well pleased with the service of the priests and the Levites.)

45 And they kept the keeping of their God, (and) the keeping of cleansing; and (the) singers, and porters (did as well), by the commandment of David, and of Solomon, his son; (And they did the service of their God, and the rites of purification, as did the singers, and the guards, *or the doorkeepers*, after the commands of David, and his son Solomon;)

46 for in the days of David and of Asaph, from the beginning, princes of singers were ordained, praising in song, and acknowledging to God. (for from the days of

David and of Asaph, yea, from the beginning, leaders were ordained over the singers, to lead the songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.)

47 And all Israel, in the days of Zerubbabel, and in the days of Nehemiah, gave parts to (the) singers and to (the) porters, by all the days; and they hallowed (a part for the) deacons, and the deacons hallowed (a part for) the sons of Aaron. (And in the days of Zerubbabel, and of Nehemiah, all Israel gave the portions, *or the gifts*, for the singers and the guards, *or the doorkeepers*, as each day required; and they dedicated a portion for the Levites, and the Levites dedicated a portion for *the priests*, the sons of Aaron.)

CHAPTER 13

1 Forsooth in that day it was read in the book of Moses, in (the) hearing of the people; and it was found written therein, that Ammonites and Moabites ought not to enter into the church of God till into without end; (And on that day they read from The Book of Moses, in the hearing of the people; and it was found written in it, that Ammonites and Moabites should never enter into the congregation of God, *that is, should never become part of their community*;)

2 for they met not the sons of Israel with bread and water, and they hired against the sons of Israel Balaam, for to curse them; and our God turned the cursing into blessing. (for they did not meet the Israelites with bread and water, but instead they hired Balaam against the Israelites, to curse them; but our God turned the curse into a blessing.)

3 And it was done, when the people had heard the law, they separated each alien from Israel (they set apart, *or excluded*, all foreigners from the Israelite community).

4 And upon these things was Eliashib, the priest, that was sovereign in the chamber of the house of our God, and was the neighbour of Tobiah². (And upon these things was the High Priest Eliashib, who was the ruler, *or the overseer*, of the storerooms of the House of our God, and was the neighbour, *or the friend*, of Tobiah.)

5 Therefore he made to him a great chamber *in the house of God*; and there before him were men that kept the gifts *that were offered*, and incense, and *diverse*

² *That is, friend, by the matrimony of his cousin, that had wedded the daughter of Sanballat. (That is, he was the relative of Tobiah, by the marriage of his cousin, who had wedded Sanballat's daughter.)*

NEHEMIAH

vessels, and the tithe of wheat, of wine, and of oil, and the parts of deacons, and of singers, and of porters, and the first fruits of priests. (And so Eliashib gave Tobiah a large room *at the House of God*, that was used to store the grain offerings, and the incense, and the *Temple* vessels, and the tithes of corn, and of wine, and of oil, *that is*, the portions, *or the contributions*, for the Levites, and the singers, and the guards, *or the doorkeepers*, and the first fruits for the priests.)

6 And in all these things I was not in Jerusalem; for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes, king of Babylon, I came to the king, and in the end of days I prayed the king. (And at this time I was not in Jerusalem; for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes, the king of Babylon, I went and reported to the king, but after some number of days, I was granted leave to return *to Jerusalem*.)

7 And I came into Jerusalem, and I understood the evil that Eliashib had done to Tobiah, to make to him a chamber in the porches of God's house; (And so I came back to Jerusalem, and I learned of the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah's sake, by giving him a room in one of the courtyards of the House of God;)

8 and to me it seemed full evil. And I casted forth the vessels of the house of Tobiah out of the chamber; (and I was greatly angered by that. And I threw all of Tobiah's things out of the room;)

9 and I commanded, and they cleansed the chambers; and I brought again there the vessels of God's house, and the sacrifice *thereof*, and the incense. (and I commanded, that they purify the room, and that all the vessels of the House of God, and the offerings, and the incense, should be put back into it.)

10 And I knew that the parts of the deacons were not given *to them*, and that each man of the deacons and of the singers, and of them that ministered *in the temple*, had gone away into his country(side); (And I also learned that the portions for the Levites had not been given *to them*, and so all of the Levites and the singers, those who ministered *in the Temple*, had gone back to their fields;)

11 and I did the cause against (the) magistrates, and I said, Why have ye forsaken the house of God? And I gathered them together, *that is*, (the) deacons and the ministers, *that had gone away*, and I made *them* to stand in their standings. (and I brought this case against the magistrates, and I said, Why is the House of God deserted? And so I brought back *the Levites, and the singers who had gone away*, and I put *them* in their places again.)

12 And all Judah brought the tithe of wheat, of wine,

and of oil, into the barns. (And so all Judah brought their tithes of corn, and wine, and oil, into the storehouses.)

13 And we ordained on *the barns*, Shelemiah, the priest, and Zadok, the writer, and Pedaiah, *one* of the deacons, and besides them we *ordained* Hanan, the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for they were proved faithful men, and the parts of their brethren were betaken to them. (And I put in charge *of the storehouses*, Shelemiah, the priest, and Zadok, the writer/a teacher of the Law, and Pedaiah, *one* of the Levites, and besides them *I ordained* Hanan, the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for they had proved to be faithful men, and so it was their duty to distribute their kinsmen's portions.)

14 My God, have mind of me for this thing, and do thou not away my merciful doings, which I have done in the house of my God, and in his ceremonies. (My God, remember me for this, and do not thou forget the good things which I have done for the House of my God, and in its service.)

15 In those days I saw in Judah men treading pressers in the sabbath, men bringing (in) heaps, and charging on asses wine, and grapes, and figs, and all (other) burden(s), and bringing (them) into Jerusalem in the day of sabbath; and I witnessed to them, that they should sell in the day in which it was leaveful to sell. (And in those days I saw in Judah men treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and people bringing in heaps of produce, yea, loading up wine, and grapes, and figs, and all other loads onto donkeys, and bringing them into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day; and I witnessed to them, that they should only sell on the days in which it were lawful to sell.)

16 And men of Tyre dwelled in it, and brought in fishes, and all things set to sale, and they sold in the sabbaths to the sons of Judah, and of Jerusalem. (And some men of Tyre lived in Jerusalem, and brought in fish, and all kinds of other things to sell, and they sold them on the Sabbath to the sons of Judah, and of Jerusalem.)

17 And I rebuked the principal men of Judah, and I said to them, What is this evil thing that ye do, and make unholy the day of the sabbath? (And I rebuked the leaders of Judah, and I said to them, What is this evil thing that ye do, and make the Sabbath day unholy!)

18 Whether our fathers did not these things, and (then) our God brought on us all this evil, and on this city? and ye increase wrathfulness on Israel, in defouling the sabbath. (Did not our forefathers do all these things, and then our God brought down all this evil upon us, and upon this city? and now ye shall bring more *of God's*

NEHEMIAH

anger upon Israel by defiling the Sabbath!)

19 And it was done, when the gates of Jerusalem had rested in the day of sabbath, I said, Shut ye the gates; and they shutted the gates; and I commanded, that they should not open the gates till after the sabbath. And of my children, *or servants*, I ordained numbers on the gates *to keep (them) shut*, that no man should bring in a burden in the day of sabbath. (And so it was done, when the gates of Jerusalem were empty, early on the Sabbath day, that I said, Shut ye the gates; and so they shut the gates; and I commanded, that they should not open the gates until after the Sabbath. And I ordained a number of my servants there at the gates, *to keep them shut*, so that no one could bring in a load on the Sabbath day.)

20 And merchants, and men selling all things set to sale, dwelled without Jerusalem once or twice. (And once or twice, some merchants, and people selling all kinds of things, set up shop outside the wall of Jerusalem.)

21 And I reasoned (with) them, and I said to them, Why dwell ye *there* even against, *or on the other side of*, the wall? If ye do this *thing* the second time, I shall set hand on you. Therefore from that time forth they came not *thither* in the sabbath. (And I warned them, and I said to them, Why do ye stay *there on the other side of* the wall? If ye do this *thing* another time, I shall put my hands on you. And from that time forth they did not come back *there* on the Sabbath.)

22 Also I said to the deacons, that they should be cleansed, and that they should come to keep the gates, and to hallow the day of sabbath. And therefore for this thing, my God, have mind of me, and spare me by the muchliness of thy merciful doings. (And I said to the Levites, that they should be purified, and then that they should go and guard the gates, to keep the Sabbath day holy. And so for this thing, my God, remember me, and spare me by the greatness of thy mercy.)

23 But also in those days I saw Jews wedding wives, women of Ashdod, and women of Ammonites, and women of Moabites.

24 And their children spake half part by the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak by the speech of Jews (and could not speak the Jewish language, *or Hebrew*), and they spake by the language of (this) people, and of (that) people.

25 And I rebuked them, and cursed them; and I beat the men of them, and I made them bald, and I made them swear by the Lord, that they should not give their

daughters to the sons of those *aliens*, and that they should not take of the daughters of those *aliens* to their sons, and to themselves; (And I rebuked them, and cursed them; and I beat these men, and I made them bald, and I made them swear by the Lord, that they would not give their daughters *as wives* to the sons of those *foreigners*, and that they would not take the daughters of those *foreigners as wives* for their sons, or for themselves;)

26 and I said, Whether Solomon, the king of Israel, sinned not in such things? And certainly in many folks there was no king like him, and he was loved of his God, and God setted him king upon all Israel, and alien women brought him to sin. (and I said, Did not King Solomon of Israel sin by doing such things? And certainly in many nations there was no king like him, and he was loved by his God, and God made him king upon all Israel, but then foreign women led him to sin.)

27 Whether also we unobedient, should do all this great evil, that we trespass against our Lord God, and wed alien wives? (And shall we then follow your example, and do all this great evil, and trespass against the Lord our God, and wed foreign wives?)

28 Forsooth Sanballat (the) Horonite had wedded a daughter of the sons of Joiada, son of Eliashib, the great priest, which *Sanballat* I drove away from me. (And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of the High Priest Eliashib, had wedded a daughter of Sanballat the Horonite, and so I drove Joiada away from me, *and out of Jerusalem*.)

29 My Lord God, have mind against them, that defoul priesthood, and the right of priests, and of deacons. (My Lord God, remember them, for they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priests and of the Levites/and the covenant that you made with the priests and the Levites.)

30 Therefore I cleansed them from all aliens, and I ordained the orders of priests and of deacons, each man in his service, (And so I purified them from all foreigners, and I ordained the orders of the priests and of the Levites, each man in his service,)

31 and in (the) offering, *that is, (the) dressing*, of trees, *or of (the) wood, to burn with (the) offered sacrifices*, in times ordained, and in the first fruits. My God, have mind of me into good. (and I also made provision for the wood offering, *that is, for the wood to burn with the offered sacrifices*, in times ordained, and for the first fruits. My God, remember me for the good things which I have done.) ☆