

Resettlement {part 5}

Nehemiah 11:20-36

Outline of Book

JERUSALEM'S CITY WALLS BUILT (CH. 1-7)

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Nehemiah's Request and inspection of the walls (Ch. 2)

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EZRA'S AND NEHEMIAH'S REFORMS (Ch. 8-13)

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Resettlement of: Rulers, Priests, Levites, Nethinims, porters. (Ch. 11)

List of Priests and Levites; Dedication of the wall (Ch. 12)

Nehemiah back in Jerusalem; restoration of various laws (Ch. 13)

Note 1;

Not all the Priests and Levites lived in the City.

Neh 11:20 And the residue of Israel, of the priests, and the Levites, were in all the cities of Judah, every one in his inheritance.

{ISBE}

“The Septuagint's Codex Vaticanus and Alexandrinus omit Neh 11:20 f”

Compare:

Villages of Judah vv 25 - 30

Villages of Benjamin vv 31-36

Note 2;

Where the Nethinims lived.

Neh 11:21 But the Nethinims dwelt in Ophel: and Ziha and Gispa were over the Nethinims.

“Ophel” {ISBE}

1. Meaning of Name:

“the tower”; in [Isa 32:14](#), “the hill” with margin “Ophel,” but the King James Version “the forts,” margin “clifts”;

[Mic 4:8](#), “the hill,” margin “Hebrew: Ophel,” but the King James Version “the stronghold”;

[2Ki 5:24](#), “the hill,” margin “Hebrew: Ophel,” but the King James Version “the tower,” margin “secret place.”

2. Location:

A certain place on the east hill of Jerusalem, South of the temple;

3. The Ophel of Jerusalem:

The situation of the Ophel of Jerusalem is very definitely described. It was clearly, from the references ([Neh 3:26](#), [Neh 3:27](#); [2Ch 27:3](#); [2Ch 33:14](#)), on the east hill South of the temple.

There leaders:

“Ziha and Gispa were over the Nethinims”

Nethinims are called “children of Ziha”

Compare:

Nehemiah 7:46

Ezra 2:43

Note 3;

Who was the overseer of the Levites at Jerusalem?

*Neh 11:22 The overseer also of the Levites at Jerusalem was **Uzzi** the son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micha. Of the sons of Asaph, the singers were over the business of the house of God.*

“Uzzi”

Means “My Strength”

App:

To be faithful in the work of God we need strength.

Not our own, but God’s strength.

Compare:

{The song of Moses}

*Exo 15:2 **The LORD is my strength** and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.*

{The Song of David}

2Sa 22:33 God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect.

Psalm 18

*Psa 18:2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; **my God, my strength**, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.*

*Psa 59:17 Unto thee, **O my strength**, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy.*

*Psa 118:14 **The LORD is my strength and song**, and is become my salvation.*

*Isa 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: **for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song**; he also is become my salvation.*

Only once is the phrase: “my strength” used in the NT.

*2Co 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: **for my strength is made perfect in weakness**. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

Next in verse 22;

Of the sons of Asaph, the singers were over the business of the house of God.

I like that phrase:

“the business of the house of God”

Do you remember when Joseph and Mary went looking for the young Jesus?

What did he say to them?

*Luk 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that **I must be about my Father's business?***

ESV says:

*Luk 2:49 And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that **I must be in my Father's house?**"*

This is incorrect!

Christ was always about his Father's business, but not always in the Temple.

NASB also reads “house”

But in the NASB margin it says: lit: “affairs”.

Why does it go away from the KJV then say the literal meaning is what the KJV says in the first place?

Note 4;

The Kings command.

Neh 11:23 For it was the king's commandment concerning them, that a certain portion should be for the singers, due for every day.

Which king?

Some have said David? No. Who?

Artaxerxes.

Compare:

Ezra 7: 11-26

Note 5;

The role of Pethahiah

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

{Keil}

Finally, the official is named who had to transact with the king the affairs of the

people, i.e., of the whole Jewish community in Judah and Jerusalem. Pethahiah, a Jew of the descendants of Zerah, was at the king's hand in all matters concerning the people. פֶּתַח־יָהּ can scarcely be understood of a royal commissioner at Jerusalem, but certainly designates an official transacting the affairs of the Jewish community at the hand of the king, at his court.

His name:

Perfect for his role.

*From H6605 and H3050; **Jah has opened**;
Pethachjah, the name of four Israelites: - Pethakiah.*

Compare:

Pro 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

Adam Clarke

The Lord is the only ruler of princes. He alone can govern and direct their counsels. But there is an allusion here to the Eastern method of watering their lands. Several canals are dug from one stream; and by opening a particular sluice, the husbandman can direct a

stream to whatever part he please: so the king's heart, wherever it turns; i.e., to whomsoever he is disposed to show favor. As the land is enriched with the streams employed in irrigation; so is the favourite of the king, by the royal bounty: and God can induce the king to give that bounty to whomsoever he will.

Remember the king of Babylon who was humbled under God's mighty hand.

Dan 4:34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

Dan 4:36 At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.

Dan 4:37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

May the Lord deal with us that we may know him whom to know is life eternal.

Amen.