

## Nehemiah 12

Verses 1- 7

**Now these are the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel** the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, <sup>2</sup> Amariah, Malluch, Hattush, <sup>3</sup> Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth, <sup>4</sup> Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah, <sup>5</sup> Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah, <sup>6</sup> Shemaiah and Joarib, Jedaiah, <sup>7</sup> Sallu, Amok, Hilkiah, *and* Jedaiah. **These were the heads of the priests and their kinsmen in the days of Jeshua.**

Jeshua was the first High Priest in Jerusalem after the exile.

Verses 8 - 11

<sup>8</sup> **And the Levites were Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, *and* Mattaniah who was in charge of the songs of thanksgiving, he and his brothers.** <sup>9</sup> **Also Bakbukiah and Unni, their brothers, *stood* opposite them in *their* service divisions.** <sup>10</sup> **Jeshua** fathered Joiakim, Joiakim fathered Eliashib, Eliashib fathered Joiada, <sup>11</sup> Joiada fathered Jonathan, and Jonathan fathered Jaddua.

These are the names of the first six High Priests after the exile.

See chart 1205

**Kings of Persia & High Priests in Jerusalem**

King	Reign	High Priest	Years
Darius I (Hystaspes)	521-486	Jeshua	515 - 490
		Joiakim	490 - 470
Xerxes I (Ahashuerus)	485-465	Eliashib	470 - 433
Artaxerxes (Longimanus)	465-424	Joiada,	433 - 410
Xerxes II	424		
Sogdianus of Persia	424 – 423 BC		
Darius II (Nothus)	423-405	Jonathan	410 - 371
Artaxerxes (Mnemon)	404-359	Jaddua.	371 - 320

Verses 12 – 21

<sup>12</sup> **Now in the days of Joiakim, the priests, the heads of fathers' households were:** of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah; <sup>13</sup> of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan; <sup>14</sup> of Malluchi, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph; <sup>15</sup> of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai; <sup>16</sup> of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam; <sup>17</sup> of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai; <sup>18</sup> of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan; <sup>19</sup> of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi; <sup>20</sup> of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber; <sup>21</sup> of Hilkiah, Hashabiah; *and* of Jedaiah, Nethanel.

This is a list of priests when Joiakim was the high priest. He was the 2<sup>nd</sup> High Priest after the Babylonian exile.

Verse 22

**As for the Levites, the heads of fathers' households were registered in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, and Johanan, and Jaddua; so were the priests in the reign of Darius the Persian.**

This is a list of 4 High Priests (3<sup>rd</sup> thru the 6<sup>th</sup> after the exile) and the time frame for this period was 470 to 320 BC

See chart 1210

Kings of Persia & High Priests in Jerusalem			
King	Reign	High Priest	Years
Darius I (Hystaspes)	521-486	Jeshua	515 - 490
		Joiakim	490 - 470
Xerxes I (Ahashuerus)	485-465	Eliashib	470 - 433
Artaxerxes (Longimanus)	465-424	Joiada,	433 - 410
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Verse 23

<sup>23</sup> The sons of Levi, the heads of fathers' *households*, were registered **in the Book of the Chronicles** up to the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib. <sup>24</sup> And the heads of the Levites were Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brothers opposite them, to praise *and* give thanks, as prescribed by David the man of God, division corresponding to division.

The days of Jonathan began in 410 BC (see chart 1210 above). Since the Book of 2nd Chronicles ends with the rise of Cyrus in 537 BC we know Nehemiah must be talking about a source other than the two Books of Chronicles in the Bible. The book of Chronicles mentioned here is "the public annals of the Jewish nation".

Verses 25 - 26

<sup>25</sup> Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, *and* Akkub were **gatekeepers** keeping watch at the storerooms of the gates. <sup>26</sup> These men served in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor and Ezra the priest and scribe.

Nehemiah tells us that these gatekeepers served during two time periods which span from 490 to 433 BC.

1. The days of the High Priest Joiakim were from 490 to 470 BC.

See chart 1215

Kings of Persia & High Priests in Jerusalem			
King	Reign	High Priest	Years
Darius I (Hystaspes)	521-486	Jeshua	515 - 490
		Joiakim	490 - 470
Xerxes I (Ahashuerus)	485-465	Eliashib	470 - 433
Artaxerxes (Longimanus)	465-424	Joiada,	433 - 410
Xerxes II	424		
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Darius II (Nothus)	423-405	Jonathan	410 - 371
Artaxerxes (Mnemon)	404-359	Jaddua.	371 - 320

2. The Days of Ezra & Nehemiah were from 458 to 433 BC.

See chart 1220

Nehemiah Time Line			
Chapter	Events		Year
	Second temple dedicated		516
	Work on the walls stopped	Ezra 4:7-23	465 to 445
	Reforms of Ezra	2nd return	458
1	Nehemiah in Susa	3rd return	445
2	His trip to Jerusalem	several months	445
3	Rebuilding of the wall begins		445
6	The wall completed	52 days	445
7	Two governors appointed		445
8	Ezra reads the law		444
9	Israelites confess their sin	1-24	444
10	Binding agreement signed		444
11	1/10th move to Jerusalem		444
12	Dedication of the wall	9-25?	444
13	Nehemiah returns to Persia	32nd year	433

Verses 27 - 30

<sup>27</sup> Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites from all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem so that they could celebrate the dedication with joy, with songs of thanksgiving and with songs *to the accompaniment* of cymbals, harps, and lyres. <sup>28</sup> So the sons of the singers were assembled from the territory around Jerusalem, and from the villages of the Netophathites, <sup>29</sup> from Beth-gilgal and from *their* fields in Geba and Azmaveth, because the singers had built themselves villages around Jerusalem. <sup>30</sup> The priests and the Levites purified themselves; they also purified the people, the gates, and the wall.

The completion of the wall occurred on the 25th day of the 6th month. Scripture does not give us the exact date of the dedication but Second Maccabees 1:18 says it was the 25th of the 9 month (Kislev). Three months after the completion of the wall.

Verses 31 - 43

<sup>31</sup> Then I had the leaders of Judah come up on top of the wall, and I appointed two large choirs, **the first proceeding to the right on top of the wall toward the Dung Gate.** <sup>32</sup> Hoshaiiah and half of the leaders of Judah followed them, <sup>33</sup> with Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam, <sup>34</sup> Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah, <sup>35</sup> and some of the sons of the priests with trumpets; *and* Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph, <sup>36</sup> and his kinsmen, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, *and* Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God. And Ezra the scribe *went* before them. <sup>37</sup> **At the Fountain Gate** they went directly up the steps of the city of David by the stairway of the wall, above the house of David to **the Water Gate on the east.**

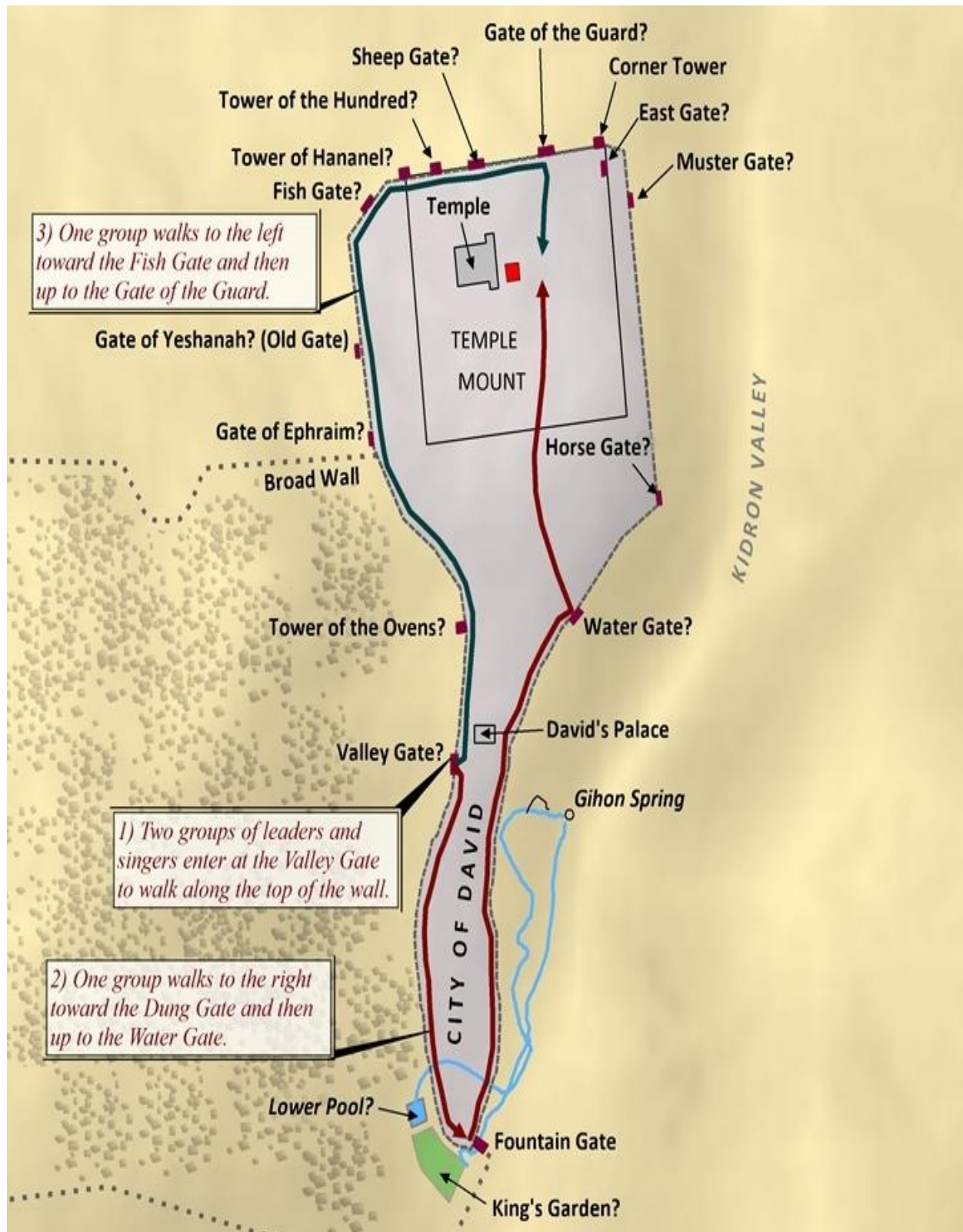
<sup>38</sup> **The second choir proceeded to the left,** while I followed them with half of the people on the wall, above the **Tower of Furnaces,** to the **Broad Wall,** <sup>39</sup> and above the **Gate of Ephraim,** by the **Ancient Gate,** by the **Fish Gate,** the **Tower of Hananel,** and the **Tower of the Hundred,** as far as the **Sheep Gate;** and they stopped at the **Gate of the Guard.** <sup>40</sup> Then the two choirs took their positions in the house of God. So did I and half of the officials with me; <sup>41</sup> and the priests, Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with the trumpets; <sup>42</sup> and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang, with Jezrahiah *their* leader, <sup>43</sup> and on that day they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced because God had given them great joy, and the women and children rejoiced as well, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard from far away.

Two groups got on the wall at the Valley Gate. This was possible because the wall was 9 feet wide according to excavations done at the sight of Nehemiah's wall. The Group led by Ezra went to the right (south) in a counter clockwise direction, while Nehemiah and his group went to the left (North) in a clockwise motion.

Ezra and his group stopped near the Watergate on the east side and Nehemiah and his group stopped neat the Gate of the Guard on the North side and from there they proceeded to meet at the Temple.

See Pic 1225





Ezra took the route in Red and Nehemiah took the route in Green.

Verses 44 - 47

<sup>44</sup> On that day men were also appointed over the chambers for the supplies, the contributions, the first fruits, and the tithes, to gather into them from the fields of the cities the portions *required by* the Law for the priests and Levites; for Judah rejoiced over the priests and the Levites who served. <sup>45</sup> For they performed the worship of their God and the service of purification, together with the singers and the gatekeepers in accordance with the command of David *and* of his son Solomon. <sup>46</sup> For in the days of David and Asaph, in ancient times, *there were* leaders of the singers, songs of praise and songs of thanksgiving to God. <sup>47</sup> So all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and Nehemiah gave the portions *due* the singers and the gatekeepers as each day required, and they set apart the consecrated *portion* for the Levites, and the Levites set apart the consecrated *portion* for the sons of Aaron.

<sup>44</sup> On that day men were also appointed over the chambers for the supplies, the contributions, the first fruits, and the tithes, to gather into them from the fields of the cities the portions *required by* the Law for the priests and Levites; for Judah rejoiced over the priests and the Levites who served.

When King Hezekiah renovated the Temple, he ordered chambers to be built for "the tithes and the dedicated things" and appointed Levites to manage them.

See 2 Chronicles 31:11

<sup>11</sup> Then Hezekiah commanded *them* to prepare rooms in the house of the Lord, and they prepared *them*. <sup>12</sup> They faithfully brought in the contributions, the tithes, and the consecrated things; and Conaniah the Levite was the officer in charge of them, and his brother Shimei was second.

This practice was reestablished after the new temple was built.

<sup>47</sup> So all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and Nehemiah gave the portions *due* the singers and the gatekeepers as each day required, and they set apart the consecrated *portion* for the Levites, and the Levites set apart the consecrated *portion* for the sons of Aaron.

This is how the system was supposed to work throughout Israel's history but we know things had gone astray during much of their history.