

Nehemiah 7

Verses 1 - 2

Now when the wall was rebuilt and I had installed the doors, and the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites were appointed, ² then I put Hanani my brother, and Hananiah the commander of the citadel, in charge of Jerusalem, for he was a faithful man and feared God more than many.

When the wall was completed Nehemiah appointed two governors for the city.

1. His brother Hanani
2. And Hananiah, a military man in charge of the citadel (the stronghold).

Hanani was the one who brought Nehemiah the bad news about Jerusalem when he was still the cupbearer to king Artaxerxes.

See Nehemiah 1:1- 2

Now it happened in the month Chislev, *in the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the capitol, ² that Hanani, one of my brothers, and some men from Judah came; and I asked them about the Jews who had escaped and had survived the captivity, and about Jerusalem.*

Having dual governors in cities and districts was common in Israel.

See Nehemiah 3:12 and 18

¹² Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, the official of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs, he and his daughters.

¹⁸ After him their brothers carried out repairs *under* Bavvai the son of Henadad, official of *the other* half of the district of Keilah.

Nehemiah was preparing to return to Persia and he wanted to leave Jerusalem with good leadership. From all that Nehemiah has done we can see why the King saw him as a valuable member of his team. How he made detailed plans before he approached the king, how he organized the people who were building the wall and how he dealt with the many enemies that wanted to distract him from the work.

Verses 3 – 4

³ Then I said to them, “The gates of Jerusalem are not to be opened until the sun is hot, and while they are standing *guard*, the *gatekeepers* are to keep the doors shut and bolted. Also appoint guards from the inhabitants of Jerusalem, each at his post, and each in front of his own house.” ⁴ Now the city was large and spacious, but the people in it were few and the houses were not built.

^{3a} Then I said to them, “The gates of Jerusalem are not to be opened until the sun is hot, and while they are standing *guard*, the *gatekeepers* are to keep the doors shut and bolted.

Under normal conditions, the gates were usually opened at sunrise and left open with a guard nearby. But with a small population, this could have left the city vulnerable so the gates were kept locked all the time and people could only enter during the busier time of the day.

^{3b} Also appoint guards from the inhabitants of Jerusalem, each at his post, and each in front of his own house.

After the closing of the gates, watchmen were to be placed along the wall with every man by his own house. This is another example of Nehemiah's understanding of human nature because people will be more diligent with their own property.

⁴ Now the city was large and spacious, but the people in it were few and the houses were not built.

Jerusalem was in desperate need of more inhabitants and those who were there still had a lot of work to do on their own houses.

Verse 5

⁵ Then my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles, the officials, and the *other* people to be enrolled by genealogies. Then I found the book of the genealogy of those who came up first, in which I found the following record:

The first group that came up with Zerubbabel numbered about 50,000.

These are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had taken into exile, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his city, ⁷ who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, *and* Baanah.

The number of men of the people of Israel: ⁸ the sons of Parosh, 2,172; ⁹ the sons of Shephatiah, 372; ¹⁰ the sons of Arah, 652; ¹¹ the sons of Pahath-moab of the sons of Jeshua and Joab, 2,818; ¹² the sons of Elam, 1,254; ¹³ the sons of Zattu, 845; ¹⁴ the sons of Zaccai, 760; ¹⁵ the sons of Binnui, 648; ¹⁶ the sons of Bebai, 628; ¹⁷ the sons of Azgad, 2,322; ¹⁸ the sons of Adonikam, 667; ¹⁹ the sons of Bigvai, 2,067; ²⁰ the sons of Adin, 655; ²¹ the sons of Ater, of Hezekiah, 98; ²² the sons of Hashum, 328; ²³ the sons of Bezai, 324; ²⁴ the sons of Hariph, 112; ²⁵ the sons of Gibeon, 95; ²⁶ the men of Bethlehem and Netophah, 188; ²⁷ the men of Anathoth, 128; ²⁸ the men of Beth-azmaveth, 42; ²⁹ the men of Kiriath-jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, 743; ³⁰ the men of Ramah and Geba, 621; ³¹ the men of Michmas, 122; ³² the men of Bethel and Ai, 123; ³³ the men of the other Nebo, 52; ³⁴ the sons of the other Elam, 1,254; ³⁵ the sons of Harim, 320; ³⁶ the men of Jericho, 345; ³⁷ the sons of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, 721; ³⁸ the sons of Senaah, 3,930.

³⁹ The priests: the sons of Jedaiah of the house of Jeshua, 973; ⁴⁰ the sons of Immer, 1,052; ⁴¹ the sons of Pashhur, 1,247; ⁴² the sons of Harim, 1,017.

⁴³ The Levites: the sons of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodevah, 74. ⁴⁴ The singers: the sons of Asaph, 148. ⁴⁵ The gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, the sons of Shobai, 138.

⁴⁶ The temple servants: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, 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 Shalmi, 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 Paseah, ⁵² the sons of Besai, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephushesim, ⁵³ the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur, ⁵⁴ the sons of Bazlith, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha, ⁵⁵ the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Temah, ⁵⁶ the sons of Nezhiah, the sons of Hatipha.

⁵⁷ The sons of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Sophereth, the sons of Perida, ⁵⁸ the sons of Jaala, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel, ⁵⁹ the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth-hazzebaim, *and* the sons of Amon.

⁶⁰ All the temple servants and the sons of Solomon's servants *totaled* 392.

⁶¹ These were the ones who came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer; but they could not provide evidence for their fathers' households or their descendants, whether they were of Israel: ⁶² the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, 642. ⁶³ And of the priests: the sons of Hobaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, the sons of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai, the Gileadite, and was named after them. ⁶⁴ These searched *among* their ancestral registration, but it could not be located; therefore they were considered unclean *and disqualified* from the priesthood. ⁶⁵ And the governor said to them that they were not to eat from the most holy things until a priest arose with Urim and Thummim.

Total of People and Gifts

⁶⁶ The whole assembly together *totaled* 42,360, ⁶⁷ besides their male slaves and their female slaves, of whom *there were* 7,337; and they had 245 male and female singers. ⁶⁸ *Their* horses were 736; *their* mules, 245; ⁶⁹ *their* camels, 435; *their* donkeys, 6,720.

⁷⁰ Some of the heads of fathers' *households* gave to the work. The governor gave to the treasury a thousand gold drachmas, fifty basins, *and* 530 priests' garments. ⁷¹ And some of the heads of fathers' *households* gave to the treasury *for* the work twenty thousand gold drachmas and 2,200 silver minas. ⁷² What the rest of the people gave was twenty thousand gold drachmas, two thousand silver minas, and sixty-seven priests' garments.

⁷³ Now the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants, and all Israel lived in their cities. And when the seventh month came, the sons of Israel *were* in their cities.

This list is almost identical to the one in Ezra 2 except for Nehemiah 7:70-72. Readers that need a refresher can take a second look at Ezra 2. Concerning verses 70 thru 72 the following chart outlines the difference between Ezra & Nehemiah on the items donated to the temple.

See chat 705

What Nehemiah recorded

Items given	Governor	Heads of family	Common People	Total
Gold drachmas,	1,000	20,000	20,000	41,000
Silver minas		2,200	2,000	4,200
Priestly garments.	530		67	597
Basins	50			50

Basins were vessels used for ritual washings

What Ezra recorded

Items given		Heads of family		Total
Gold drachmas,		61,000		61,000
Silver minas		5,000		5,000
Priestly garments.		100		100
Basins*		0		0

Ezra did not separate the gifts between 3 groups as Nehemiah did but why the gifts that were recorded are not the same is not clear.