

Nehemiah 10:1-12:26

Nehemiah 10:1-27 – Sealing the Covenant (Covenant of Renewal) by the Leaders:

1 On the seals are the names of Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah, Zedekiah, 2 Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah, 3 Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah, 4 Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch, 5 Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah, 6 Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch, 7 Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin, 8 Maaziah, Bilgai, Shemaiah; **these are the priests.**

- A. “On the sealed document” is literally “and on the seals which makes this a plural.
 - a. It appears each man was placing his seal from a ring or a cylinder or a seal on a necklace on the document.
- B. Nehemiah the governor was the first
- C. Zedekiah’s position and person are unknown, but he may have been an official serving Nehemiah such as Nehemiah’s secretary.
- D. Twenty-one priests are mentioned according to their family names

9 And the Levites:

Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel; 10 and their brothers, Shebaniah, Hodiah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan, 11 Mica, Rehob, Hashabiah, 12 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah, 13 Hodiah, Bani, Beninu.

- A. The Levites likewise seal their name to the covenant

14 The chiefs of the people:

Parosh, Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani, 15 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai, 16 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin, 17 Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur, 18 Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai, 19 Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai, 20 Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir, 21 Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua, 22 Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah, 23 Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub, 24 Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek, 25 Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah, 26 Ahiah, Hanan, Anan, 27 Malluch, Harim, Baanah.

- A. These are other leaders of the community sealing the document.

Nehemiah 10:28-29 – Swearing to the Covenant by the General Population:

28 The rest of the people, the **priests**, the **Levites**, the **gatekeepers**, the **singers**, the **temple servants**, and

all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters,

all who have knowledge and understanding,

29 join with their brothers, their nobles, and enter into a curse and

an oath to walk in God's Law that was given by Moses the servant of God, and

to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord our Lord and his rules and his statutes.

- A. Now the general community swears to obey the covenant their leaders had signed (seal)
- B. This general group included:
 - a. Priests
 - b. Levites
 - c. Gatekeepers

- d. Singers
 - e. Temple Servants
 - f. Community members who met these requirements:
 - i. Had separated themselves from the people of the land (people of other nations, or people that had not gone into exile but remained in the land but had become Gentiles)
 - ii. Had knowledge and understanding of the Mosaic Law
- C. This includes taking an oath that if broken will result in the curse of this covenant.
- D. This was a renewal of the Mosaic Covenant

Nehemiah 10:30-31 – General Obligations of the Covenant:

30 We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons.

31 And if the peoples of the land bring in goods or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on a holy day. And we will forego the crops of the seventh year and the exaction of every debt.

Nehemiah 10:32-39 – Temple Support Obligations of the Covenant:

32 We also take on ourselves the obligation to give yearly a third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God: 33 for the showbread, the regular grain offering, the regular burnt offering, the Sabbaths, the new moons, the appointed feasts, the holy things, and the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God.

34 We, the priests, the Levites, and the people, have likewise cast lots for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at times appointed, year by year, to burn on the altar of the Lord our God, as it is written in the Law.

35 We obligate ourselves to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of every tree, year by year, to the house of the Lord; 36 also to bring to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God, the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, as it is written in the Law, and the firstborn of our herds and of our flocks; 37 and to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our ground, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our towns where we labor.

38 And the priest, the son of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive the tithes. And the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes to the house of our God, to the chambers of the storehouse. 39 For the people of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of grain, wine, and oil to the chambers, where the vessels of the sanctuary are, as well as the priests who minister, and the gatekeepers and the singers.

We will not neglect the house of our God.”

- A. The obligations of the covenant:
 - a. No mixed marriages.
 - i. This was dealt with in Ezra 9-10
 - ii. This will still be a problem in Nehemiah 13:23-28

- b. Sabbath observances
 - i. This was a problem since the community had been influenced by the Gentiles
 - ii. The Gentiles had been allowed to enter Judah and Jerusalem, and the Gentiles did not stop doing business on the Sabbath.
 - iii. For the Jews, it was too convenient not to break with the Gentile practice to observe the Sabbath.
- c. Restoration of the Temple and the Temple Services
 - i. It appears the Temple, the services, the supplies and the priests had been neglected even though the Temple had been complete in 516 BC, 72 years before this day in 444 BC.
 - ii. The 1/3 shekel was a yearly tax to help the Temple function each day.
 - 1. In Exodus 30:13 this tax is called for, but it was ½ a shekel in 1440 BC
 - 2. The change from ½ to 1/3 of a shekel is most likely to match the money system of the Persians.
 - iii. All the gifts are to be given
 - iv. The Levites are to collect what they need, but with the supervision of a priest
 - v. In 10:34 the lots will be cast to determine who is to supply the wood for the Temple fires and who will be responsible for pick up and delivery through out the year.

Nehemiah 11:1-2 – Repopulating Jerusalem:

1 Now the leaders of the people lived in Jerusalem. And the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to live in Jerusalem the holy city, while nine out of ten remained in the other towns.

2 And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered to live in Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 11:3 – People Lived in Jerusalem and the Rural Towns of Judah:

3 These are the chiefs of the province who lived in Jerusalem; but in the towns of Judah everyone lived on his property in their towns: Israel, the priests, the Levites, the temple servants, and the descendants of Solomon's servants.

Nehemiah 11:3-19 – Those Who Lived in Jerusalem:

4 And in Jerusalem lived certain of the sons of Judah and of the sons of Benjamin.

Of the sons of Judah:

Athaiah the son of Uzziah, son of Zechariah, son of Amariah, son of Shephatiah, son of Mahalalel, of the sons of Perez;

5 and Maaseiah the son of Baruch, son of Col-hozeh, son of Hazaiah, son of Adaiah, son of Joiarib, son of Zechariah, son of the Shilonite.

6 All the sons of Perez who lived in Jerusalem were **468 valiant men.**

7 And these are the sons of Benjamin:

Sallu the son of Meshullam, son of Joed, son of Pedaiah, son of Kolaiah, son of Maaseiah, son of Ithiel, son of Jeshaiah,

8 and his brothers, men of valor, 928.

9 Joel the son of Zichri was their overseer;
and Judah the son of Hassenuah was second over the city.

10 **Of the priests:**

Jedaiah the son of Joiarib,
Jachin,

11 Seraiah the son of Hilkiah, son of Meshullam, son of Zadok, son of Meraioth, son of Ahitub,
ruler of the house of God, 12 and their brothers who did the work of the house, **822**;

and
Adaiah the son of Jeroham, son of Pelaliah, son of Amzi, son of Zechariah, son of Pashhur,
son of Malchijah, 13 and his brothers, heads of fathers' houses, **242**;

and
Amashsai, the son of Azarel, son of Ahzai, son of Meshillemoth, son of Immer, 14 and their
brothers, mighty men of valor, **128**; their overseer was Zabdiel the son of Haggadolim.

15 And **of the Levites:**

Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, son of Azrikam, son of Hashabiah, son of Bunni;

16 and Shabbethai

and Jozabad,

of the **chiefs of the Levites**, who were **over the outside work of the house of God**;

17 and Mattaniah the son of Mica, son of Zabdi, son of Asaph, who was the **leader of the praise**, who **gave thanks**,

and Bakbukiah, the **second** among his brothers;

and Abda the son of Shammua, son of Galal, son of Jeduthun.

18 All the Levites in the holy city were **284**.

19 **The gatekeepers**,

Akkub,

Talmon and their brothers,

who kept watch at the gates, were **172**.

Nehemiah 11:20 – There were some living in the Rural Cities: Israelites, Priests, Levites

20 And the rest of Israel, and of the priests and the Levites, were in all the towns of Judah, every one in his inheritance.

Nehemiah 11:21 – Also, in Jerusalem were Temple Servants on the Ophel:

21 But the **temple servants** lived on Ophel;

and Ziha and Gishpa were **over the temple servants**.

Nehemiah 11:22 – Also, in Jerusalem were Levite Singers:

22 The **overseer of the Levites** in Jerusalem was **Uzzi** the son of Bani, son of Hashabiah, son of Mattaniah, son of Mica, of the sons of Asaph, the **singers**, over the work of the house of God.

23 For there was a command from the king (*most likely referring to Persian King Artaxerxes and not David of the OT*) concerning them, and a fixed provision for the singers, as every day required.

24 And **Pethahiah** the son of Meshezabel, of the sons of Zerah the son of Judah, was **at the king's side** in all matters concerning the people.

Nehemiah 11:25-36 – The Populated Villages of Judah:

25 And as for the villages, with their fields, some of the people of Judah lived in Kiriath-arba and its villages, and in Dibon and its villages, and in Jekabzeel and its villages, 26 and in Jeshua and in

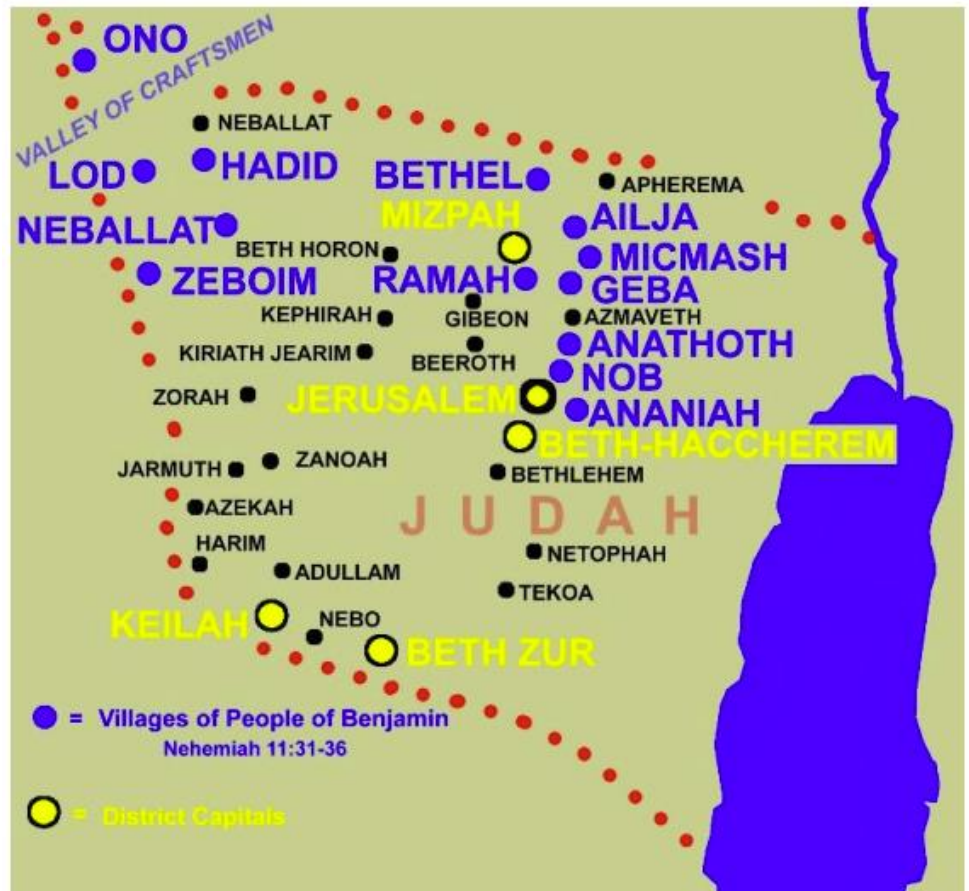


Moladah and Beth-pelet, 27
in Hazar-shual,
in Beersheba and its villages, 28

in Ziklag,
 in Meconah and its villages, 29
 in En-rimmon,
 in Zorah,
 in Jarmuth, 30
 Zanoah,
 Adullam, and their villages,
 Lachish and its fields, and
 Azekah and its villages.

So they encamped from Beersheba to the Valley of Hinnom.

31 The people of Benjamin also
 lived from
 Geba onward,
 at Michmash,
 Aija,
 Bethel and its villages, 32
 Anathoth,
 Nob,
 Ananiah, 33
 Hazor,
 Ramah,
 Gittaim, 34
 Hadid,
 Zeboim,
 Neballat, 35
 Lod, and
 Ono, the valley of craftsmen. 36



And certain divisions of the
 Levites in Judah were assigned
 to Benjamin.

**Nehemiah 12:1-7 – Record of
 the Genealogies of the Priests:**

1 These are the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, 2 Amariah, Malluch, Hattush, 3 Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth, 4 Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah, 5 Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah, 6 Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah, 7 Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, Jedaiah. These were the chiefs of the priests and of their brothers in the days of Jeshua.

Nehemiah 12:8-26 – Record of the Genealogies of the Levites:

8 And the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, who with his brothers was in charge of the songs of thanksgiving.

9 And Bakbukiah and Unni and their brothers stood opposite them in the service.

10 And Jeshua was the father of Joiakim, Joiakim the father of Eliashib, Eliashib the father of Joiada, 11 Joiada the father of Jonathan, and Jonathan the father of Jaddua.

Nehemiah 12:12-21 – List of Names of Priests who were the Heads of their Father’s House:

12 And in the days of Joiakim were priests, heads of fathers' houses:

of Seraiah, Meraiah;

of Jeremiah, Hananiah;

13 of Ezra, Meshullam;

of Amariah, Jehohanan;

14 of Malluchi, Jonathan;

of Shebaniah, Joseph;

15 of Harim, Adna;

of Meraioth, Helkai;

16 of Iddo, Zechariah;

of Ginnethon, Meshullam;

17 of Abijah, Zichri;

of Miniamin,

of Moadiah, Piltai;

18 of Bilgah, Shammua;

of Shemaiah, Jehonathan;

19 of Joiarib, Mattenai;

of Jedaiah, Uzzi;

20 of Sallai, Kallai;

of Amok, Eber;

21 of Hilkiah, Hashabiah;

of Jedaiah, Nethanel.

Nehemiah 12:22-23 – List of Names of Levites who were the Heads of their Father’s House:

22 In the **days of Eliashib**, Joiada, Johanan, and Jaddua,

the Levites were recorded as heads of fathers' houses;

so too were the priests in the reign of Darius the Persian.

23 As for the sons of Levi, their heads of fathers' houses were written in the **Book of the Chronicles** until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib.

Nehemiah 12:24-25 – The Levite Families Responsibilities – Worshippers and Gatekeepers:

24 And the chiefs of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brothers who stood opposite them, to **praise** and to **give thanks**, according to the commandment of David the man of God, watch by watch.

25 Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were gatekeepers standing guard at the storehouses of the gates.

Nehemiah 12:16 – The Date for this Update of Genealogies, Assignments and Responsibilities:

26 These were in the days of

Joiakim the son of Jeshua son of Jozadak,

and in the days of

Nehemiah the governor

and of

Ezra, the priest and scribe.

