



Life Group Study – Completing the Book of Nehemiah

Title: Chapter 11

Scriptures: Nehemiah 11:1-36

Read Nehemiah 11:1-2 and supporting scriptures

1. The leaders of the people settled in Jerusalem – Nehemiah 11:1
 - a. Jerusalem being the capital city of the area was the proper place for the leaders to live to perform their offices and establish the seat of government.
 - b. The leaders relocating to Jerusalem set an example for the people. They couldn't expect others to move to Jerusalem if they were not willing to live there.

2. The People Cast Lots or Volunteered – Nehemiah 11:1-2
 - a. For Jerusalem to be great, to prosper, and to be defensible, it had to be populated, so it was decided to choose every one out of ten men (families) by casting lots.
 - b. Casting lots was an accepted Jewish tradition and the people believed it was God who determined how the lot fell; Proverbs 16:33 – The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD. This approach prevented strife, and gave satisfaction to those chosen that God was determining where they should live.
 - c. Some men willingly volunteered to move to Jerusalem. They were willing to endure some measure of discomfort or hardship to accomplish a greater work for God's kingdom. The people commended them and, likely, prayed for God's blessing upon them for volunteering.
 - d. Moving to Jerusalem was considered a sacrifice. People had to give up land they had, leave friends behind, and there was still a lot of rebuilding to do in Jerusalem. There was no commerce in the city, and the potential danger of their enemies returning.

Read Nehemiah 11:3-24

3. The Leaders and Their Roles – Nehemiah 11:3-24
 - a. The leaders who settled in Jerusalem were priests, Levites, soldiers, temple guards (gatekeepers), civil officials, and temple servants (Nethinim) mostly from the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi; and an official of the Persian King.
 - b. Their primary roles were to defend the city, oversee city operations, oversee the religious and business operations of the house of God, and the king's man was the royal adviser in all matters of public administration.



- c. The city was going through a renewal (being rebuilt) and the people were going through a spiritual renewal having taken vows to obey God. Only Jews from these three tribes were allowed to live in Jerusalem because these tribes had kept themselves pure and not intermarried with Assyrians and other gentiles.
- d. Jerusalem was the “holy city” (v1). A significant part of the city was devoted to the Levites and those who served at the temple. A key purpose of the city’s inhabitants was to support the temple operations. The Lord’s temple did not exist for the city; the city existed for the Lord’s temple.

Read Nehemiah 11:25-36

- 4. The Rest of the Nation – Nehemiah 11:25-36
 - a. Only 5,000 – 8,000 Jews lived in the city of Jerusalem.
 - b. The remainder of the tribes, including other members of Judah, Benjamin and the Levites lived in the surrounding countryside (from Beersheba in the south to the valley of Hinnom).
 - c. During this period, the nation was restored to a structure they hadn’t experienced since the time of Joshua.