

# **Sunday School Lesson**

**August 20, 2023**

**Dedication of the Wall**

**Nehemiah 12:27-36, 38, 43**

**Instructor: Ralph Gordon**

# Questions for Us Today

August 20, 2023

Have you dedicated anything to the Lord, in appreciation and celebration of what He has done for you?

If so, how did you do so?

If not, why not?

# Sunday School Lesson Objective

August 20, 2023

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To understand how Nehemiah (and Ezra) led the people to commemorate God's goodness.

# **Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1**

**August 20, 2023**

**1. Bibliography**

**2. Points of Information: Nehemiah**

# **Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2**

**August 20, 2023**

**3. Lesson Context**

**4. Lesson Text**

**5. Remember These Things**

# Points of Information – Nehemiah

Nehemiah likely wrote most (if not all) of the Book named after him, possibly with editing help from Ezra, the priest and scribe.

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God used Nehemiah, who became the Governor of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 10:1), to lead spiritual awakenings among His people and to refortify the Holy City of Jerusalem.

## Points of Information – Nehemiah

Nehemiah was deeply saddened to find that although some of his people – the remnant – had returned from exile to Jerusalem, the walls (of protection) and gates of the Holy City had not yet been repaired and rebuilt. He then offered a fervent prayer to the Lord, on behalf of his people. Nehemiah 1:5-11.

# Points of Information – Nehemiah

As a cupbearer for the Persian king, Nehemiah's job had been to taste the king's wine and food first, to ensure that they were safe for the king to consume.

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Nehemiah took a great risk by appearing with a sad face in front of the king. Nehemiah 2:1-3. By tradition, this could have been punishable by death. However, Nehemiah prayed first; then, he requested that King Artaxerxes allow him to go to Jerusalem and help his own people. Verses 4-8.



# Dedication of the Wall

## Lesson Context - 1

In our previous lesson, led by the Levites, the people offered a solemn and sincere prayer of confession. Chapter 9.

Then, they sealed it in a document. Nehemiah listed (in detail) the names of all of the people. Furthermore, they swore oaths and curses. Chapter 10.

# Dedication of the Wall

## Lesson Context - 2

In Chapter 11, a number of people chose to live in Jerusalem, while others were directed to do so. Nehemiah provided a detailed list of their names and of people who lived in additional locations.

# Dedication of the Wall

## Lesson Context - 3

In the earlier Verses (up to V. 26) of Chapter 12, Nehemiah documented the names of the priests and Levites who returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel and Jeshua.

# Dedication of the Wall

## Lesson Context - 4

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**Now, we visit Jerusalem where the dedication of the wall was held.**

# **Dedication of the Wall**

**Text – UMI Outline #1**

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**Nehemiah 12:27-36**

**Dedication and Purification**

## Nehemiah 12:27 (NLT)

For the dedication of the new wall of Jerusalem, the Levites throughout the land were asked to come to Jerusalem to assist in the ceremonies. They were to take part in the joyous occasion with their songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps, and lyres.

## **Nehemiah 12:28-29**

**The singers were brought together from the region around Jerusalem and from the villages of the Netophathites.**

**They also came from Beth-gilgal and the rural areas near Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built their own settlements around Jerusalem.**

## Nehemiah 12:30-31

The priests and Levites first purified themselves, then they purified the people, the gates, and the wall.

I led the leaders of Judah to the top of the wall and organized two large choirs to give thanks. One of the choirs proceeded southward along the top of the wall to the Dung Gate.



## **Nehemiah 12:32-34**

**Hoshaiah and half the leaders of Judah followed them,**

**along with Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam,**

**Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, and Jeremiah.**

## **Nehemiah 12:35**

**Then came some priests who played trumpets, including Zechariah son of Jonathan, son of Shemaiah, son of Mattaniah, son of Micaiah, son of Zaccur, a descendant of Asaph.**

## **Nehemiah 12:36**

**And Zechariah's colleagues were Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani. They used the musical instruments prescribed by David, the man of God. Ezra the scribe led the procession.**

**Dedication of the Wall**

**Text – UMI Outline #2**

**Nehemiah 12:38, 43**

**Restoration and Thanksgiving**

## **Nehemiah 12:38**

**The second choir giving thanks went northward around the other way to meet them. I followed them, together with the other half of the people, along the top of the wall past the Tower of the Ovens to the Broad Wall.**

## Nehemiah 12:43

Many sacrifices were offered on that joyous day, for God had given the people cause for great joy. The women and children also participated in the celebration, and the joy of the people of Jerusalem could be heard far away.

**Remember these things:**

**Let us not forget or neglect to honor God by actively celebrating His goodness to us...**

**... and by consecrating ourselves to His service.**

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