

# CAPITOL STUDIES

FEBRUARY 23, 2022 • WEEK 9



## NEHEMIAH: THE CIVIL SERVANT FROM SUSA

### *Contents*

Establishing Leadership	2
Establishing Citizenship	3
Encouraging Worship	5
About Capitol Studies	7

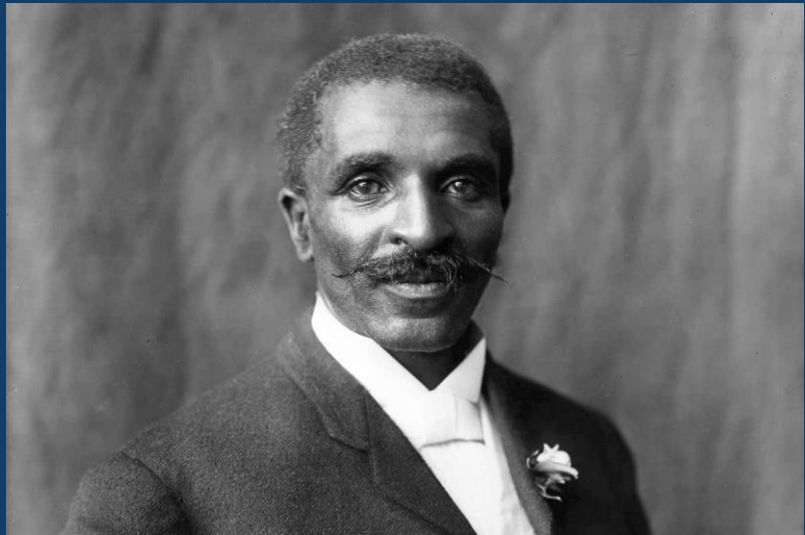


### *Verse of the Week*

Nehemiah 7:5a

*Then my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles, the officials, and the people to be enrolled by genealogies.*

## Nehemiah: Builder with Priority



THERE IS A NEED FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERS to be open to direction from the Lord. We need to have our senses tuned to his prompting. The great men of the ages have realized the importance of seeking God's guidance, not only in the big things of life, but in the little ones as well. George Washington Carver was one of these. On one occasion he remarked: "There is no need for anyone to be without direction in the midst of the perplexities of this life. Are we not plainly told, 'In all thy ways acknowledge him and he will direct thy path'? (Proverbs 3:6 KJV)" It was Carver's custom to arise at 4:00 AM each day and seek God's guidance for his life. In speaking of this habit, he said, "At no other time have I so sharp an understanding of what God means to do with me as in those hours when other folks are still asleep." In this seemingly simple practice, we have the secret of his phenomenal success. – Cyril J. Barber<sup>1</sup>

Pastor Arin Hess  
*Chaplain, Capitol Studies*



## INTRODUCTION

Consider Nehemiah's priority now that the walls are rebuilt and the gates are finished. His focus turned to building the people. Our priorities in life should center on people and not just projects. The faithful Jews who came back from captivity finished their work on the wall. Now Nehemiah encouraged them to exercise dominion where they had most influence: the temple, their homes, and their businesses. This meant they must work with people. Nehemiah was driven to make sure the city and its people were secure in the days ahead. So it is for the people of God—preparing for the future is the most important thing in all eternity.

“A city is much more than walls, gates, and houses; a city is people. In the first half of Nehemiah, the people existed for the walls, but now the walls must exist for the people. It was time to organize the community so that the citizens could enjoy the quality-of-life God wanted them to have. God had great things in store for Jerusalem, for one day His Son would walk the city streets, teach in the temple, and die outside the city walls.”<sup>2</sup>

### I. ESTABLISHING LEADERSHIP

*Nehemiah 7:1-3*

*Now when the wall was rebuilt and I had set up the doors, and the gatekeepers and the singers and the Levites were appointed, <sup>2</sup>then I put Hanani my brother, and Hananiah the commander of the fortress, in charge of Jerusalem, for he was a faithful man and feared God more than many. <sup>3</sup>Then I said to them, “Do not let the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot, and while they are standing guard, let them shut and bolt the doors. Also appoint guards from the inhabitants of Jerusalem, each at his post, and each in front of his own house.”<sup>3</sup>*

#### A. The Porters, the Singers, and the Levites

These cared for the Temple, so their expertise was invaluable. As we have noted before, people were most interested in protecting the areas where their homes and families were. These workers were also spiritually qualified to lead in these capacities.

#### B. The Governors

“Why was Nehemiah convinced that these men [Hanani and Hananiah] would be good leaders? They had two wonderful qualities: They were faithful to God, and they feared God (7:2). Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., often said, ‘The greatest ability is dependability.’ If we truly fear the Lord, we will be faithful to do the work He has called us to do. When leaders fear people instead of fearing God, they end up getting trapped (Proverbs 29:25), and that leads to failure.”<sup>4</sup>

In appointing new leadership over the city, Nehemiah exemplified what Alexander Hamilton later put into words: “The aim of every political constitution is, or ought to be, first to obtain for rulers, men who possess



most wisdom to discern, and most virtue to pursue the common good of society; and in the next place, to take the most effectual precautions for keeping them virtuous.”<sup>5</sup> Not everybody is called to be a Nehemiah, but some of us can be Hananis, Hananiahs, Rephaiahs, or Shallums and work with God-given leaders to help get the job done right. God is looking for faithful, God-fearing men and women who will have the courage and conviction to serve Him, come what may.

### C. The Guards

“This is Nehemiah’s care here; for dead walls, without living watchmen, are but a poor defence to a city.”<sup>6</sup> We need watchers to warn us of the enemy’s presence. We need guards—faithful men and women who will not allow false Christians access to our ministry (2 Corinthians 11:13–15). Christian parents must guard their homes lest the enemy encroach and capture their children. When God’s people are asleep and overconfident, the enemy will invade and plant counterfeits (Matthew 13:25). We must be awake and alert!

## II. ESTABLISHING CITIZENSHIP

*Nehemiah 7:4-69*

*Now the city was large and spacious, but the people in it were few and the houses were not built. <sup>5</sup>Then my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles, the officials and the 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: <sup>6</sup>These are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his city, <sup>7</sup>who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah. The number of men of the people of Israel: <sup>8</sup>the sons of Parosh, 2,172; <sup>9</sup>the sons of Shephatiah, 372; <sup>10</sup>the sons of Arah, 652; <sup>11</sup>the sons of Pahath-moab of the sons of Jeshua and Joab, 2,818; <sup>12</sup>the sons of Elam, 1,254; <sup>13</sup>the sons of Zattu, 845; <sup>14</sup>the sons of Zaccai, 760; <sup>15</sup>the sons of Binnui, 648; <sup>16</sup>the sons of Bebai, 628; <sup>17</sup>the sons of Azgad, 2,322; <sup>18</sup>the sons of Adonikam, 667; <sup>19</sup>the sons of Bigvai, 2,067; <sup>20</sup>the sons of Adin, 655; <sup>21</sup>the sons of Ater, of Hezekiah, 98; <sup>22</sup>the sons of Hashum, 328; <sup>23</sup>the sons of Bezai, 324; <sup>24</sup>the sons of Hariph, 112; <sup>25</sup>the sons of Gibeon, 95; <sup>26</sup>the men of Bethlehem and Netophah, 188; <sup>27</sup>the men of Anathoth, 128; <sup>28</sup>the men of Beth-azmaveth, 42; <sup>29</sup>the men of Kiriath-jearim, Chephirah and Beeroth, 743; <sup>30</sup>the men of Ramah and Geba, 621; <sup>31</sup>the men of Michmas, 122; <sup>32</sup>the men of Bethel and Ai, 123; <sup>33</sup>the men of the other Nebo, 52; <sup>34</sup>the sons of the other Elam, 1,254; <sup>35</sup>the sons of Harim, 320; <sup>36</sup>the men of Jericho, 345; <sup>37</sup>the sons of Lod, Hadid and Ono, 721; <sup>38</sup>the sons of Senaah, 3,930. <sup>39</sup>The priests: the sons of Jedaiah of the house of Jeshua, 973; <sup>40</sup>the sons of Immer, 1,052; <sup>41</sup>the sons of Pashhur, 1,247; <sup>42</sup>the sons of Harim, 1,017. <sup>43</sup>The Levites: the sons of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodevah, 74. <sup>44</sup>The singers: the sons of Asaph, 148. <sup>45</sup>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. <sup>46</sup>The temple servants: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth, <sup>47</sup>the sons of Keros, the sons of Sia, the sons of Padon, <sup>48</sup>the sons of Lebana, the sons of Hagaba, the sons of Shalmal, <sup>49</sup>the sons of Hanan, the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar, <sup>50</sup>the sons of Reaiah, the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda, <sup>51</sup>the sons of Gazzam, the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah, <sup>52</sup>the sons of Besai, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephushesim, <sup>53</sup>the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur, <sup>54</sup>the sons of Bazlith, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha, <sup>55</sup>the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Temah, <sup>56</sup>the sons of Neziah, the sons of Hatipha. <sup>57</sup>The sons of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Sophereth, the sons of Perida, <sup>58</sup>the sons of Jaala, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel, <sup>59</sup>the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth-hazzebaim, the sons of Amon. <sup>60</sup>All the temple servants and the sons of Solomon's servants were 392. <sup>61</sup>These were they who came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addon and Immer; but they could not show their fathers' houses or their descendants, whether they were of Israel: <sup>62</sup>the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, 642. <sup>63</sup>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. <sup>64</sup>These searched among their ancestral registration, but it could not be located; therefore they were considered unclean and excluded from the priesthood. <sup>65</sup>The governor said to them that they should not eat from the most holy things until a priest arose with Urim and Thummim. <sup>66</sup>The whole assembly together was 42,360, <sup>67</sup>besides their male and their female servants, of whom there were 7,337; and they had 245 male and female singers. <sup>68</sup>Their horses were 736; their mules, 245; <sup>69</sup>their camels, 435; their donkeys, 6,720.*

### A. Citizens Guarding the City

This is the roster of Jews and others who were part of the repopulation of Jerusalem. This section parallels Ezra 2:1-64. If you compare the two lists, you will see that some of Nehemiah's names and numbers differ from those recorded nearly a century before when the exiles returned from Babylon. This does not suggest that there are either errors or contradictions in the Bible. Errors in spelling names or copying numbers could easily creep in over a century, and none of these differences affect any matter of doctrine or duty.

Reading this long list of difficult names might seem boring, but these people were God's "bridge" connecting the past defeats to present and future hopes. These Jews were the "living link" that united the historic past with the prophetic future and made it possible for Jesus Christ to come into the world. Ezra 2 and Nehemiah 7 are to the Old Testament what Hebrews 11 is to the New Testament: a listing of the people whose faith and courage made things happen.







## B. Citizens Guarding the Soul of the People

These were leaders of worship. The singers (7:1, 67) play an important role in the life of the city. There are at least eighteen references to singers in the book of Nehemiah and eight references to giving thanks to the Lord. There was not much singing during the exile, when the nation was out of fellowship with God (Psalm 137), but now they needed the musicians to lead their songs of worship and thanksgiving.

The priests and the Levites led in worship through the reading and explanation of Scripture and the offering of sacrifices. Because they were ministers of God to the people, purity was required. That meant the lineage of each religious leader had to be verified before they could serve (7:61-64).

Before we leave this section, it would be good to ask, “If I had to prove my genealogy in order to get into God’s city, could I do it?” You are heading for one of two destinations—heaven or hell. Only those who belong to God’s family can enter heaven. You become a part of God’s family by receiving Jesus Christ as your own Savior, and this alone guarantees your entrance into heaven (John 1:11-12; 3:16; 14:6).

## III. ENCOURAGING WORSHIP

*Nehemiah 7:70-73*

*Some from among the heads of fathers’ households gave to the work. The governor gave to the treasury 1,000 gold drachmas, 50 basins, 530 priests’ garments. <sup>71</sup>Some of the heads of fathers’ households gave into the treasury of the work 20,000 gold drachmas and 2,200 silver minas. <sup>72</sup>That which the rest of the people gave was 20,000 gold drachmas and 2,000 silver minas and 67 priests’ garments. <sup>73</sup>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.*

“Citizenship and leadership together can make a state, but it takes worship to make that state into a godly nation.”<sup>7</sup> There are many ways to worship. We can worship in song, in giving, in praise, in prayer, and more. “John Stuart Mill wrote, ‘The worth of a state, in the long run, is the worth of the individuals composing it.’ But the worth [in a sense] of the individual depends on his or her relationship to God, and this involves worship. If individual godliness declines, the morality of the nation declines.”<sup>8</sup> How are you worshipping God?

## CONCLUSION

Warren Wiersbe said it best when he wrote the following concerning this chapter in Nehemiah:

One of the key lessons we can learn from this long chapter is that *people are important to God*. When God wanted to take the next step in His great plan of redemption, He called a group of Jews to leave the





place of exile and return to their own land. He gave them encouragement from the prophets and leadership from people who feared God and wanted to honor Him. The Lord didn't send a band of angels to do the job; He used common people who were willing to risk their futures on the promises of God.

Today, God is still calling people to leave their personal "Babylons" and follow Him by faith. The church is living in a day of reproach (Neh. 2:17), and there are "ruins" all around us that need to be rebuilt. "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" David asked (Ps. 11:3). The answer is plain: *The righteous can rebuild what has been torn down and start over again!* If you think that an enemy victory is final, then you have lost your faith in God's promises. There is always a new beginning for those who are willing to pay the price.

This chapter also reminds us that *God keeps accounts of His servants*. He knows where we came from, what family we belong to, how much we gave, and how much we did for Him. When we stand before the Lord, we will have to give an account of our lives before we can receive our rewards (Rom. 14:7-12), and we want to be able to give a good account.

A third lesson we must learn is that *the Lord is able to keep His work going*. The first group of Jewish exiles left Babylon for Judea in 538 BC and, in spite of many difficulties and delays, rebuilt the temple and restored the worship. Eighty years later, Ezra and another group returned. ...Fourteen years after that, Nehemiah arrived and rebuilt walls and gates. During the days of Zerubbabel, God raised up the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to give God's message to His people. No matter how discouraging the situation might be, God is able to accomplish His purposes if we trust Him and do His will.... We must not be discouraged!

Finally, and most important, we must all be sure that *we know we are in the family of God*. No matter how much they argued or protested, the priests without legitimate genealogies could not enter the temple precincts and minister at the altar. God is not impressed with our first birth; what He wants is that we experience a second birth and become His children. If you are not certain of your spiritual genealogy, read John 3:1-18 and 1 John 5:9-13 and make sure that your name is written down in heaven (Luke 10:20).<sup>9</sup>

To sum it up, for the child of God, the first priority must be his or her personal relationship with God. Everything else flows from that.

Pastor Arin Hess

## FOOTNOTES

1. Cyril J. Barber, *Nehemiah: The Dynamic of Effective Leadership*, Loizeaux Brothers, 1976, pg. 119.
2. Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Determined*, Victor Books, 1976, pg. 81.
3. All Scripture quotations, unless noted, are taken from the *New American Standard Bible, 1995 Update*.
4. Wiersbe, *Be Determined*, pg. 96.
5. Barber, *Nehemiah*, pg. 115.
6. Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*, Hendrickson Publishers, 1994, pg. 634.
7. Barber, *Nehemiah*, pg. 115.
8. Wiersbe, *Be Determined*, pgs. 91-93.
9. *Ibid.*

## Personal Study Notes

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

PAGE 7  
FEB 23, 2022

*Verse of  
The Week*

Nehemiah 7:5a

*Then my God put it  
into my heart to  
assemble the nobles,  
the officials, and the  
people to be enrolled  
by genealogies.*



### WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Meeting during the  
107<sup>th</sup> Legislature's  
Second Session

#### SENATORS

7:00–8:00 A.M. Wednesdays  
Meeting Room 1124

#### STAFF

12:00 P.M. Wednesdays  
Meeting Room 1124



[www.CapitolStudies.org](http://www.CapitolStudies.org)  
[info@capitolstudies.org](mailto:info@capitolstudies.org)  
 [/CapitolStudies](https://www.facebook.com/CapitolStudies)  
402-770-6270



*Serving Civil Servants with Scripture*

Capitol Studies™ exists to serve kings for the King of kings until His glorious return. We are privileged to minister to Civil Servants at all levels of government for their good and God's glory. Capitol Studies is led by Pastor Arin Hess, who has over 40 years of ministry experience in the State of Nebraska and Washington, D.C.

Capitol Studies Offices  
4547 Calvert Street • Lincoln, NE 68506

