

Nehemiah 7

The walls are up and the gates are in place. Nehemiah reads a census of the people who returned under Zerubbabel. This list is very similar but not identical to Ezra's list (Ezra 2). All of this points to the statement that the "city was large and spacious, but the people in it were few" (4). Now that the wall was completed, the work wasn't finished. Nehemiah was now turning his attention to the people. It was time to fill Jerusalem and fill their hearts with the Lord. For a second time, God put it in Nehemiah's heart to do something (5)

- There are 119 names listed
 - sons of Solomon's servants (57)
 - the sons of Tobiah (62)
- There are 54 number notations
- Inventory included numbering the servants and the animals (67-69)

There are several categories of names:

1. Original leaders (6,7)
2. The laymen (8-38)
3. Priests (39-42)
4. Levites (43)
5. Singers (44)
6. Gatekeepers (45)
7. Temple servants (45-56)
8. Descendants of Solomon's servants (57-60)
9. Questionable ancestry (61-65)

1. The Census served two purposes: identify the need to repopulate the city and to ensure pure blood lines

- those who could not prove their ancestry were excluded from serving (61, 64-65)

2. Nehemiah sets forth three valuable lessons:

- He gave instructions on when the gates should be _____ (3)
- He appointed some key leadership roles (2)
 - Hanani: in charge of Jerusalem (role of mayor) - he first brought the report to Nehemiah (1:2)
 - Hananiah: commander of the citadel (police chief)

Finding key people to carry on the details of the work is important

Theodore Roosevelt: "The best executive is the one who has the sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it."

In John Maxwell's classic "Developing the Leader Within You," he identifies the nine characteristics of leadership:

1. The definition of leadership: _____
2. The key to leadership: _____
3. The most important ingredient of leadership: _____
4. The ultimate test of leadership: CREATING
P_____ C_____
5. The quickest way to gain leadership: PROBLEM-
S_____
6. The extra plus in leadership: A_____
7. Developing your most appreciable asset: P_____
8. The indispensable quality of leadership: V_____
9. The price-tag of leadership: SELF-D_____

Acts 6:3-4 "Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, who we may put in charge of this task. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

- Leading is not necessarily doing a task yourself. It is developing trustworthy people who can not only do the job, but in time can lead others as well.

A. God has always had leaders for His people

1. Moses & Joshua
2. The Judges
3. The Kings, the Prophets
4. Jesus & the apostles
5. Today, it is shepherds (1 Pet 5:2-3; Ps 23)

- He led the people to _____ support the work of God (70-72)

- *The governor gave to the treasury...(70).* The governor is Nehemiah

Total Amounts Given:

41,000 gold drachmas: 1/4 oz—10,250 ounces of gold @ \$1800 oz = _____

4,200 silver minas: 1.26lbs— 84,672 ounces of silver @ \$27 oz = _____

50 basins: bowls

597 priests' garments

LESSONS LEARNED:

1. We all need each other to _____ the work God has for us. No one among us can do it all.
2. O _____ is essential to keep all the parts moving
 - God's plan for the organization of the church is patterned in Phil 1:1
3. Fellowship is based upon those who b _____
 - 1 Jn 1:7 is the NT basis for fellowship
4. We all play d _____ roles, and each role is essential
5. D _____ leaders is a key component of a growing church
6. F _____ giving is an important aspect of the work (1 Cor 16:1-2)
 - when you give you are saying that you b _____ in what is going on
 - when you give you are saying that you want things to c _____
 - when you give you are saying that you can be c _____ on
7. Every person is i _____

