

Ezra-Nehemiah Part 16

Major Theme

Sacrificing for the glory of God

People, Priests, and Levites - Nehemiah 11:1–12:26

- Those who lived in Jerusalem (Nehemiah 11:3-24)
- Those who lived in surrounding villages (Nehemiah 11:25-36)
- The Priests and Levites (Nehemiah 12:1-26)
- People didn't want to live in Jerusalem
 - Financial risk
 - Security risk
 - 11:6—"valiant men"
 - 11:8—"men of valor"
 - 11:14—"mighty men of valor"
- Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." // Matthew 16:24 (ESV)
- John 11:1-16
- Acts 21:7-14

The Dedication of the Wall - Nehemiah 12:27-43

- "This elaborate and beautiful celebration dedicates the wall of Jerusalem to the Lord, which is significant because this is God's city. This city is for the worship of God." // James Hamilton, "Exalting Jesus in Ezra-Nehemiah"
- 1 Chronicles 24 - King David organized the priests into 24 divisions. This made it so that each priest was on duty for two weeks a year.

- The ritual of purifying themselves, the people, and the wall is to set those things apart for the worship and service of God.
- Then Tobiah the Ammonite, who was beside him, said, "Indeed, even if a fox climbed up what they are building, he would break down their stone wall!" // Nehemiah 4:3 (CSB)
 - Now two choirs filled with leaders of the people can stand and march along the wall.
- The people have joy in worshiping God because God has given them joy.

Provisions for Temple Worship - Nehemiah 12:44-47

- The people are keeping their covenant to obey the Torah of God.
- The people are giving out of faithfulness to God's instructions and out of joy of worshiping God.
- 2 Corinthians 9:10-15