

Until the Sun Be Hot +++

Nehemiah 7:1 – 73

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~ Do you have the joy of God in your heart? Scripture is clear that our joy has nothing to do with our present circumstances – but that it is based upon the One Who is sovereign over all things. So, the next questions are, naturally, how do we get this joy, and how will it manifest in our daily lives? Well, in this report from our Spiritual Safari, Nehemiah is going to explain it for us; although not all of us will be able to process and accept what the Spirit of God has to say through Nehemiah.

I hope you have your Bible open and have read this entire chapter carefully before reading this report; because, if you will do that, this safari will mean so much more to your heart! As far as I know, this so-called Spiritual Safari is the only written teaching of the *entire* Word of God. I hear about teachings which claim to have a chapter by chapter and verse by verse study of the Bible – but – they don't have it all. I've not discovered one that was complete; and the only commentary that even comes close omits two books wholesale – Song of Solomon and Leviticus. Well, that's not a complete teaching. We take it all on safari, friends, I can promise you that. And this is our second safari through. Why not ask the Spirit of God to speak to your heart in His Word today, and then actually make an attempt at studying to show yourself approved? I believe the Lord wants you to do that. In fact, I know He does.

Moreover, so many talk about how they believe the Bible is the Word of God, but they don't seem to place any importance on a balance of all sixty-six books. What we have in this report is a genealogy that, I'll admit, doesn't read well; and isn't very interesting to me, either. However, this chapter in Nehemiah is equally as inspired and inerrant as John chapter three verse sixteen. Perhaps it isn't quite as important as John three sixteen is to us today – but – it's equally as important to God at this moment as I type, and you read. And you can just write that down!

Alright, the children of Israel have returned to Jerusalem from the Babylonian captivity at the time in which we are studying, Ezra has rebuilt the temple – and Nehemiah has rebuilt the walls of the city. That means the city is in a position to worship God as a witness to the outside world, and protect herself from enemy invaders. Protection was critical; because those who attempted to stop the rebuilding of the walls are *STILL* out there – and they are still the enemy of God. Sanballat and his ilk, the children of the devil, would love nothing more than to get inside to corrupt and destroy the whole city again. Most of the homes have been rebuilt at this time, also; but they were, obviously, still clearing out debris from the massive boulders Nebuchadnezzar literally crushed....

***<sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass, when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the porters and the singers and the Levites were appointed,***

***<sup>2</sup> That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.***

~ So, everyone who would be appointed for the protection of the city and service in the temple have now been chosen. This is very practical and necessary, of course; and the “porters” were watchmen – keepers of the wall. There would have been many watchmen stationed around the wall, twenty-four hours a day, who kept the inhabitants informed on a minute-by-minute basis. If the enemy approached, or some other danger became imminent, the watchmen were the ones responsible to act proactively as quickly as possible. Naturally, the standards for a “porter” – or watchman – were extremely high. Unfortunately, later on, we’ll discover they weren’t as scrutinized as they should have been; because they became indifferent as to who came and went. Today, we are usually told that we aren’t to be indifferent regarding who comes and who goes in our fellowship. Well, friends, we aren’t told to fellowship with everyone who comes along. Sometimes, not even with those who are professing believers.

**1 Corinthians 5:** <sup>11</sup> *But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.*

*<sup>12</sup> For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? <sup>13</sup> But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person ~*

The church must recognize that sound doctrine is our top priority today in any ministry. Frankly, it is all-important. Those who deny the inerrancy, or the inspiration of Scripture, aren't to be called brothers; because it is impossible to fellowship with them in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. However, this passage from first Corinthians isn't dealing with doctrine; Paul just happens to be talking about those men and women in the church who refuse to deal with the *sin* in their life! I know of a local church where the pastor was caught in adultery, and yet the congregation did absolutely nothing about it. I attended that church before the scandal was exposed and, amazingly, that pastor *NEVER* – and I mean *NEVER* – taught from any book of the Bible except Matthew! Well, that church is utterly wrecked today; and has been reduced to nothing but a community social club.

On the other hand, those groups may emphasize doctrine, but have such a nauseatingly low standard of moral conduct that the church is *TOTALLY* and *COMPLETELY* ineffective at bringing in the lost, and incapable of growing in the knowledge and grace of our Savior and Lord as they should. Covetousness is idolatry, friends. What about the church members or pastors who are money hungry? What about those in the church who aren't honest in their dealings with others? Will you have fellowship with those "believers?" Well, Paul condemns all of this in no uncertain terms! We have a wholly lop-sided view of this problem – and it is in *EVERY* church!

**2 John** <sup>10</sup> *If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: <sup>11</sup> For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds ~*

See, John put it all on the basis of *doctrine*; and that encompasses the entire body of Holy Writ. Our safari doctrine is the same doctrine all of the apostles held. Today, we have groups that do not hold to all aspects of the sound doctrine of the apostles; and, although they may claim the inerrancy of Scripture, the deity of Christ, and that Jesus died for our sins, they, in

fact, do not believe as they profess. They're liars. They say they walk in the light, but they walk in darkness. And that makes for one holy mess. It makes a church impotent and incompetent. Of course, that does *NOT* mean we are to sit in judgment over those people, either. And therein lies all of Nehemiah's difficulties:

**2 Timothy 2:**<sup>19</sup> ....*The Lord knoweth them that are his* ~

You and I don't know who God's children are, friends – but God knows. That means we must be *SUPER* careful about making judgment calls regarding who has a “*stone cold heart*” — and all that other pious nonsense. Those who make those judgments are the ones who aren't saved. A genuine child of God doesn't desire to make that judgment on *ANYONE*. See how that works? The idea of sitting in harsh judgment of others because they don't do as we think they should do – all while incessantly spewing “love, love, love,” of course – is wrong on every imaginable Christian level. Fellowship is too valuable to be frittered away by self-centered sentimentality. That's something we need to recognize. That does *NOT* mean we are to look the other way to sin, though. Certain laymen shut their eyes to sin in the ministry, and certain ministers shut their eyes to the sins of the laymen. Neither are correct. We're getting down to the nitty gritty today, friends – we all need to seriously make some notes here. We're not to judge them, but we *ARE* to break fellowship with them. Eternal vigilance is the price of Christian liberty!

So, we are being instructed how to be on guard; and this is where the porter's importance arises. The singers are mentioned with them because the spirit of praise is definitely the spirit of power. In the next chapter, Nehemiah himself will sing an Acapulco, “.... *the joy of the Lord is your strength!*” I won't be singing because that would be blasphemous – but I will be singing along in my heart. Many of you know I am a drummer, but I am not a singer. I always wanted to be a singer, to tell you the truth; but, when I sing, I hear Elvis and Sinatra, but apparently, those who hear my singing hear something entirely different – more like fingernails on a chalk board — or, so I'm told. Well, I do err talking about myself, but the point is: we should be a rejoicing group of people as Christians – even if it is only on the *inside*.

Internal genuine joy is wholly absent in the contemporary church. Sure, most will laugh at some cute little story, and giggle all the way through their banquets; but they don't enjoy Bible study. Just the mention of it and they become frustrated and argumentative. I see that problem manifest itself every Thursday night and Sunday morning. It is very difficult to get people to come to church on Sunday morning; but it is nearly impossible to get them to a mid-week Bible study in the comfort of their own home. The ones who don't make it are usually – but not always, because some have legitimate reasons why they cannot attend – but *MOST* of them are, generally, the weak brothers and sisters; and they typically become trouble-makers! They're just lazy. They will not support or help you.

I have said this before, and I say it again: those who do not genuinely enjoy Bible study – in my book – are suspicious — and I have to admit: I have a nagging question in the back of my mind about their salvation. Paul said our love of the Holy Spirit is the mark of a true Christian; so, I have justification for my estimate. Now, I know all of this may hurt feelings, but I am teaching the entire Bible and – here we are. Let's just leave it at this: "*.... joy is the flag that is flown when the Master is in residence!*" When we are walking with God, and we are in fellowship with the Father, we're going to have joy in our hearts and lives – every time and *ALL* the time.

So, the Levites — the priests — are mentioned in verse one; and Solomon once said: "*.... a man's gift maketh room for him!*" How true that is! If God has called you to the ministry, then He is going to make a way for you to do it properly, correctly and completely. I get several messages every day from people asking for my help to support their ministry. Well, they just cannot comprehend that they are asking the wrong person. I *NEVER* ask them to support my ministry. See, I know that if God wants you to serve, He will give you a place — and make a way when there is no way — to do so. And He won't have you dependent upon men, friends. That's the *real* test of who is called for this type of work and who isn't.

Notice in verse two these two brothers – who were *NOT* blood brothers to Nehemiah – were given charge because they were *FAITHFUL*! They were *NOT* given charge over Jerusalem because they were educated or had been

through an approved seminary; and you might want to write that down, too. No, friends, they were *faithful* men who feared God. Period. They don't teach this theology in Bible college, either, you may be absolutely sure. Now, don't get me wrong, we need an educated ministry — and I repeatedly call for an educated Bible study — but — even a fool can be educated. We have a whole lot of educated fools running around claiming to be elders, pastors, evangelists — and the worst of them all: apostles — but they're just fools. They have no character; and even less real knowledge and understanding of Scripture — but they are *HIGHLY* educated.

Well, God requires *FAITHFULNESS* first and foremost, friends. Any worthy steward is mandated to be found faithful. Can your pastor depend on you? Can God depend on you? Can your fellow laymen depend on you? Are you really faithful? Education is utterly worthless if you are not completely faithful in all of these areas. Okay, now that Nehemiah has stepped on all ten toes of everyone who reads these reports — let's move along....

***<sup>3</sup> And I said unto them, Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun be hot; and while they stand by, let them shut the doors, and bar them: and appoint watches of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, every one in his watch, and every one to be over against his house.***

~ So, every citizen was responsible for watching in the night; even if that meant only watching over your own home. Everything becomes so uncertain in the dark, of course. God will hold us responsible for that which is our own and that which is immediately around us, my friends — make no mistake about this. Don't become so interested in building your own house that you forget to watch out for your brother and sister. Jesus said, *“what I say unto you I say unto all: WATCH.”* If that is not our attitude as a believer, then maybe we just aren't really a believer? See, most people stopped reading this safari a *LONG* time ago, I'm sure. And that's fine with me, because it's their problem — not mine; just remember, the walls of Jerusalem had been rebuilt by men with a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other. We just happen to need both today in the work of the Lord....

***<sup>4</sup> Now the city was large and great: but the people were few therein, and the houses were not builded.***

***<sup>5</sup> And my God put into mine heart to gather together the nobles, and the rulers, and the people, that they might be reckoned by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of them which came up at the first, and found written therein,***

***<sup>6</sup> These are the children of the province, that went up out of the captivity, of those that had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and came again to Jerusalem and to Judah, every one unto his city;***

***<sup>7</sup> Who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah. The number, I say, of the men of the people of Israel was this;***

***<sup>8</sup> The children of Parosh, two thousand an hundred seventy and two.***

***<sup>9</sup> The children of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy and two.***

***<sup>10</sup> The children of Arah, six hundred fifty and two.***

***<sup>11</sup> The children of Pahathmoab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand and eight hundred and eighteen.***

***<sup>12</sup> The children of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.***

***<sup>13</sup> The children of Zattu, eight hundred forty and five.***

***<sup>14</sup> The children of Zaccai, seven hundred and threescore.***

***<sup>15</sup> The children of Binnui, six hundred forty and eight.***

***<sup>16</sup> The children of Bebai, six hundred twenty and eight.***

***<sup>17</sup> The children of Azgad, two thousand three hundred twenty and two.***

***<sup>18</sup> The children of Adonikam, six hundred threescore and seven.***

- 19 The children of Bigvai, two thousand threescore and seven.***
- 20 The children of Adin, six hundred fifty and five.***
- 21 The children of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety and eight.***
- 22 The children of Hashum, three hundred twenty and eight.***
- 23 The children of Bezai, three hundred twenty and four.***
- 24 The children of Hariph, an hundred and twelve.***
- 25 The children of Gibeon, ninety and five.***
- 26 The men of Bethlehem and Netophah, an hundred fourscore and eight.***
- 27 The men of Anathoth, an hundred twenty and eight.***
- 28 The men of Bethazmaveth, forty and two.***
- 29 The men of Kirjathjearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred forty and three.***
- 30 The men of Ramah and Geba, six hundred twenty and one.***
- 31 The men of Michmas, an hundred and twenty and two.***
- 32 The men of Bethel and Ai, an hundred twenty and three.***
- 33 The men of the other Nebo, fifty and two.***
- 34 The children of the other Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.***
- 35 The children of Harim, three hundred and twenty.***
- 36 The children of Jericho, three hundred forty and five.***



- 37 The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty and one.***
- 38 The children of Senaah, three thousand nine hundred and thirty.***
- 39 The priests: the children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy and three.***
- 40 The children of Immer, a thousand fifty and two.***
- 41 The children of Pashur, a thousand two hundred forty and seven.***
- 42 The children of Harim, a thousand and seventeen.***
- 43 The Levites: the children of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, and of the children of Hodevah, seventy and four.***
- 44 The singers: the children of Asaph, an hundred forty and eight.***
- 45 The porters: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai, an hundred thirty and eight.***
- 46 The Nethinims: the children of Ziha, the children of Hashupha, the children of Tabbaoth,***
- 47 The children of Keros, the children of Sia, the children of Padon,***
- 48 The children of Lebana, the children of Hagaba, the children of Shalmai,***
- 49 The children of Hanan, the children of Giddel, the children of Gahar,***
- 50 The children of Reaiah, the children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda,***
- 51 The children of Gazzam, the children of Uzza, the children of Phaseah,***

***52 The children of Besai, the children of Meunim, the children of Nephishesim,***

***53 The children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur,***

***54 The children of Bazlith, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha,***

***55 The children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Tamah,***

***56 The children of Neziah, the children of Hatipha.***

***57 The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Perida,***

***58 The children of Jaala, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel,***

***59 The children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Amon.***

***60 All the Nethinims, and the children of Solomon's servants, were three hundred ninety and two.***

***61 And these were they which went up also from Telmelah, Telharsa, Cherub, Addon, and Immer: but they could not shew their father's house, nor their seed, whether they were of Israel.***

***62 The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred forty and two.***

***63 And of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai, which took one of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite to wife, and was called after their name.***

***64 These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood.***

***65 And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and Thummim.***

***66 The whole congregation together was forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore,***

***67 Beside their manservants and their maidservants, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven: and they had two hundred forty and five singing men and singing women.***

***68 Their horses, seven hundred thirty and six: their mules, two hundred forty and five:***

***69 Their camels, four hundred thirty and five: six thousand seven hundred and twenty asses.***

***70 And some of the chief of the fathers gave unto the work. The Tirshatha gave to the treasure a thousand drams of gold, fifty basons, five hundred and thirty priests' garments.***

***71 And some of the chief of the fathers gave to the treasure of the work twenty thousand drams of gold, and two thousand and two hundred pound of silver.***

***72 And that which the rest of the people gave was twenty thousand drams of gold, and two thousand pound of silver, and threescore and seven priests' garments.***

***73 So the priests, and the Levites, and the porters, and the singers, and some of the people, and the Nethinims, and all Israel, dwelt in their cities; and when the seventh month came, the children of Israel were in their cities.***

~ Well, of those who didn't stop reading before, that genealogy likely stopped them in this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. I recommend you do — and hope you did — read it in its entirety, because it is worthwhile. It's the same genealogy we had in

Ezra chapter two. Most people wonder why in the world God would waste so much ink printing that thing two times. Well, the righteous are in everlasting remembrance, according to Scripture. God knows all of those people Personally. God wants us to know He knows them, too. Most governments produce around fifteen copies of everything – why shouldn't God's government do the same? These are God's people – you know, the ones written in His Book.

I suppose more than a hundred years had gone by between the time these people were taken into captivity and the time this genealogy was produced. These Israelite's knew who they were. Many people today say they think they are a child of God; they say they hope they are a child of God – my question is: don't you *KNOW* whether you're a child of God or not? Surely you know whether you have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior – or not. He who hath the Son hath life; do you? That isn't boasting – that's called believing. If you don't believe God, you're calling Him a liar.

Unfortunately, there were those in verse sixty-one who couldn't say if they were sons of God. They thought they were – they hoped they were – but they just weren't sure. I think they tried to be Israelites; but that didn't help them. That won't help you, either, friends – you're going to have to know it. When they couldn't state their lineage they were put out of Jerusalem! Verse sixty-four is not a very nice reality. The Urim and Thummim in verse sixty-five was in the breastplate of the high priests garment; and that told them how they could discern who was in the priesthood. Today, you can only know if you have eternal life in the Word of God. This is serious business; and extremely important information to any sincere student of Scripture ~

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