

# Celebrate the Lord!

Living in Community (Ezra-Nehemiah) Series – Nehemiah 12  
August 7, 2016, by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church

What's happened in Nehemiah so far?

- 1) Wall is rebuilt (in 52 days)
- 2) People formally committed to keep God's laws
- 3) The community of God's people demonstrated willingness to make God's "holy city" thrive

## *Understanding the participants (v. 1-30)*

- List of [22] priests who came with Zerubbabel and Jeshua, the high priest (520-516 B.C.) (v. 1-7)
- List of Levites who came with Zerubbabel and Jeshua, the high priest (520-516 B.C.)
  - 🎺 Levites in charge of songs of thanksgiving (v. 8)
  - 🎺 Levites standing opposite those singing (v. 9)
    - ⊕ The priestly line from Jeshua (provides a generational timeline) (v. 10-11)
- List of [20] other priests
  - ⊕ In the days of the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation from Jeshua (v. 12-21)
  - ⊕ Priests in the days of the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> generation from Jeshua and in the reign of Darius (423-405 B.C.) (v. 22-23)
    - 🎺 Chiefs of Levites standing to praise and give thanks (v. 24)
    - 🎺 Gatekeepers guarding the storehouse gates
      - ⊕ At the dedication ceremony
        - Preparation
          - 🎺 Levites (v. 27)
            - to **celebrate**
              - with gladness
              - with thanksgiving
              - with singing

- with musical instruments
- 🎺 Sons of the singers (v. 28-29)
  - Gathered together
- 🎺 Priests and Levites (v. 30)
  - **Purified** themselves,
  - the people,
  - the gates and wall

### *The Ceremony (v. 31-47)*

#### A. A great parade of dedication.

- 1) The first group went up on the wall, marched south to Dung Gate. (v. 31-37).

🎺 Leaders of Judah

- Split – to go with the choirs

🎺 Two “great choirs”

- Split – on the wall to go south and north

🎺 Priest’s sons with trumpets

🎺 Zechariah’s relatives with David’s musical instruments

🎺 Ezra the scribe led the procession south

- 2) The second group went to the north on the wall from the Tower of Ovens (v.38-42).

#### B. Sacrificing and rejoicing (v. 43).

#### C. Set up for continuing service of the Temple (v.44- 47)

- 1) Appointed stewards of contributions to the Temple
- 2) Performed purification rites
- 3) **Supported** those serving Lord

### **Application:**

Do not overlook God’s **holiness** even as you praise Him.

**Confess** sin/ purify your heart.

Dedication should be **tangible**.

These actions start with a conscious decision of the will. What is *your* will regarding joy from the Lord?