

Ezra & Nehemiah
Lesson #11
Dedication of the Wall

1. Why didn't people want to live in the walled city of Jerusalem?
The houses weren't built, It was more expensive to live in the city, It was not their family inheritance, They were closer to the temple so there was more scrutiny on how they lived their lives, Non-Jews attached a stigma to residents of Jerusalem so they were often excluded from trade.
2. **Ten** percent of the people were selected by lot to live in the city.
3. The **Levites** were in charge of **worship**. They were descendants of **Asaph** from the time of King David.
4. Nehemiah had 2 **choirs** walking in opposite directions along with leaders, gatekeepers walk around the city on **top** of the **walls**, singing, worshipping and blowing trumpets.
5. The **Ammonites** and **Moabites** were specifically mentioned as not being allowed to be part of the assembly because they had not met the Israelites with food and water and had hired **Balaam** to curse them.
6. Nehemiah returned to Babylon after **12** years. It was during the **32nd** year of King Artaxerxes reign.
7. During the time he was gone **Eliashib** was put in charge of the storerooms. He allowed **Tobiah** to have one of the large storerooms.
8. The storerooms stored grain, offerings, incense, temple articles wine and oil that were allocated for the use of the **priests and Levites**.
9. Nehemiah was **angry**. He threw **Tobiah** out and purified the room and put the articles that belonged there back.
10. Nehemiah also removed **Eliashib** from his position and put others over the storerooms that were considered trustworthy.
11. Nehemiah saw men working on the **Sabbath**. He instructed the gates to close at **sundown** on the Sabbath and to remain closed until the **end** of the Sabbath.
12. The observance of the **Sabbath** did not end with the **New Testament**.
13. The Ten Commandments are:
 1. **You shall have no other gods before Me.**
 2. **You shall not make for yourself any idol**
 3. **You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God**
 4. **Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy**
 5. **Honor your father and your mother**
 6. **You shall not murder**
 7. **You shall not commit adultery**
 8. **You shall not steal**
 9. **You shall not give false testimony**
 10. **You shall not covet**
14. One of sons of Eliashib, Joiada, was married to **Sanballat's** daughter. Nehemiah learned that these things were happening among the priests and Levites so he **threw** them out. Nehemiah purified the **priests** and **Levites**.
15. What is your prayer today to purge any sin from your life? We often don't realize we are going wrong. Examine your own heart and purify yourselves before the Lord.