

Hi Revive Family,

For today's devotional, we will take a look at Nehemiah chapters 12-13! To refresh our memory, here is a recap of what we know so far:

Nehemiah Recap

- Ch 1-** After hearing the state of Jerusalem, Nehemiah weeps and empathizes with the Jewish people.
- Ch 2-3-** Nehemiah uses his power and privilege to secure resources to help the people rebuild the wall. He takes time to understand and examine what is in need of repair. People come to rebuild the wall together.
- Ch 4-6-** The people rebuilding begin to face obstacles and opposition both internal and external. Nehemiah's response is to pray and protect each other. He uses discernment instead of fear in order to complete the wall.
- Ch 7-10-** The wall is completed! People remember their past, repent of their sins, and recommit their lives to God, highlighting that spiritual growth should be prioritized

Reflection of the Word:

Nehemiah 12:27, 44-45

27 At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres.

44 At that time men were appointed to be in charge of the storerooms for the contributions, firstfruits and tithes. From the fields around the towns they were to bring into the storerooms the portions required by the Law for the priests and the Levites, for Judah was pleased with the ministering priests and Levites. 45 They performed the service of their God and the service of purification, as did also the musicians and gatekeepers, according to the commands of David and his son Solomon.

Nehemiah 13:6-11, 29-31

6 But while all this was going on, I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had returned to the king. Some time later I asked his permission 7 and came back to Jerusalem. Here I learned about the evil thing Eliashib had done in providing Tobiah a room in the courts of the house of God. 8 I was greatly displeased and threw all Tobiah's household goods out of the room. 9 I gave orders to purify the rooms, and then I put back into them the equipment of the house of God, with the grain offerings and the incense. 10 I also learned that the portions assigned to the Levites had not been given to them, and that all the Levites and musicians responsible for the service had gone back to their own fields. 11 So I rebuked the officials and asked them, "Why is the house of God neglected?" Then I called them together and stationed them at their posts.

29 Remember them, my God, because they defiled the priestly office and the covenant of the priesthood and of the Levites. 30 So I purified the priests and the Levites of everything foreign, and assigned them duties, each to his own task. 31 I also made provision for contributions of wood at designated times, and for the firstfruits.

Remember me with favor, my God.

Summary and observations:

The wall is dedicated and the people celebrate! Their celebration is a reflection of gratitude and an investment for their future. However, when Nehemiah returns, he sees that the people have fallen back into their old ways. Although there was transformation, it doesn't mean it will be permanent. It will take intentionality to sustain healthy rhythms.

Nehemiah 12-13

Reading Notes & Observations:

Questions:

Key Verses or Phrases:

Application:

- Reflecting on the past year and a half, what are some things or experiences you've learned?
- Are there things or experiences that you can give gratitude to God for?
- What are intentional rhythms you want to take with you from the time you spent in quarantine?
- What are you looking forward to as this season changes and the world begins to reopen?