

### **Recap of 3/3/19 (Nehemiah 7:1):**

1. "Once again the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob not only lived on lands promised them by God, but also occupied the city God chose as a resting place for His name." (Richards)
2. As chapter seven of Nehemiah opens, we find that the walls are completed and the doors have been set in the gates. There was still a need, however, for vigilance on the part of the people of God.
3. "Gains must be guarded. Times of great spiritual achievement can be as dangerous as times of disappointment if they put us off our guard. Vigilance is required of us at all times." (Hughes)
4. We must be alert, especially after a great spiritual victory or time of advancement in our lives. In 1 Peter 5:8 he warns believers that "Satan prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour." We must be alert to the attacks of the enemy. Paul, in Ephesians 6:10ff reminds us that we are in a spiritual war and our battle is not against other people but against Satan's army. The key to victory is putting on the whole armor of God; growing in the Word, growing in truth, righteousness, peace and faith in our Christian life; being alert and praying.
5. Nehemiah 7 is transitional. Chapters one through six describe the reconstruction of the wall while chapters eight through thirteen describe the "reconstruction" of the people," as they are confronted with the Word of God.
6. Gatekeepers, singers and Levites were appointed by Nehemiah. While they would serve double duty guarding the gates of Jerusalem their main duty was to the Temple. The gatekeepers would take care of the gates and doors of the Temple (Psalm 84:10); the singers provided music for Temple worship; and the Levites were "butchers, doorkeepers, singers, scribes and teachers," in the words of one writer. Now that Jerusalem was once again secure worship could be carried out in earnest. The purpose of the city was the worship of God. Worship was central to the Israelites from the time of the Tabernacle in the wilderness. This can even be seen in the layout of the camp with the Tabernacle at its center.
7. As God's chosen people today, the Church exists to declare God's praises (1 Peter 2:9).