

Recap of 7/28/19 (Nehemiah 12:25-47):

1. “Nehemiah now describes the dedication of the wall following spiritual renewal and the reenactment of the covenant. The occasion marking the completion of the wall becomes quite significant (Goldberg)
2. The people, the wall, and even the gates are set apart to God by the sprinkling of the blood of the sacrificial animals. As they celebrate the completion of the wall and embarking on this new commitment to the Lord, it is necessary to set themselves apart to Him. Joshua 5 is an illustration of this, the people of God have crossed the Jordan River and are on the threshold of conquering the Promised Land, God requires them to be set apart to Him before they proceed, even though the people of the land are terrified of the Israelites, God requires His people to be circumcised and to celebrate the Passover before embarking on the battle. They were to remind the people to whom they belonged and to remind them of the power of God and His deliverance in the past from Egypt. Still, there was one other thing necessary before they engaged the enemy, Joshua encounters the “commander of the Lord’s Army,” the preincarnate Christ. A reminder to Joshua and to the people of Israel that it was God who was in charge.
3. Verses 27-43 describes the great dedication service. Two groups (including leaders, officials, priests with trumpets and others with musical instruments): one led by Ezra and one led by Nehemiah walk along the top of the wall in opposite directions and meet at the Temple, where the celebration continues. Their joy was so great that they could be heard from far away.
4. “There were two sources of this joy. The first was external and visible [the wall]. ... Yet the great well from which Judah’s joy flowed was inner and spiritual. ...For you and me too, the ultimate source of joy is to be found in our relationship with the lord. When we are right with Him, visible signs of His presence become less important to us. When we are right with God, we can rejoice even when external things go wrong.” (Richards)
5. The remainder of the chapter has to do with Nehemiah providing for the ongoing worship at the Temple. Certain men were placed in charge of the storerooms where the contributions would be stored and distributed from to the Temple servants, thus insuring that worship would not be interrupted.