



Arabic Simplified Text

v4.9

Nehemiah

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Table of Contents

4	NEHEMIAH
4	NEHEMIAH 1
5	NEHEMIAH 2
7	NEHEMIAH 3
10	NEHEMIAH 4
12	NEHEMIAH 5
13	NEHEMIAH 6
15	NEHEMIAH 7
19	NEHEMIAH 8
21	NEHEMIAH 9
24	NEHEMIAH 10
26	NEHEMIAH 11
28	NEHEMIAH 12
30	NEHEMIAH 13

NEHEMIAH

.I am writing this account .I am Nehemiah, son of Hakaliah¹ 1

My story begins in the month of Kislev during the twentieth year of the reign of King Hanani, one of my² .I was in the capital city of Susa .over the Persian Empire Artaxerxes brothers, came to see me, along with some other people from the province of Judah. I asked when many years earlier them about the Jews who had escaped and remained in Judah the city the condition of I also asked about .to Babylon soldiers had forced many Jews to go .of Jerusalem

They said to me, “The Jews who escaped the exile and remained in the province of³ broke down the wall of The Babylonian soldiers .Judah are in a desperate situation living there burned down all of its gates. The people they and ,to get into the city Jerusalem ”.are defenseless

When I heard about these things, I sat down and cried. I could not stop mourning for⁴ .days. I went without food, and I prayed to the God who is in heaven

I said, “O Yahweh, you are the God who is in heaven. You are the great and awesome⁵ God. You always keep your promises faithfully to those who love you and obey your

Now please pay careful attention and listen to my prayer that I am⁶ .commandments .praying to you now, as I have been constantly, for the people of Israel, your chosen people I must confess the sins that we, the people of Israel, have committed against you. Both I Many years .We have acted very wickedly toward you⁷ .and my family have also sinned .you gave us your Law through your servant Moses. But we have not obeyed your Law ago

,Please call to mind the promise that you made to your servant Moses. You told him⁸ If you Israelites do not obey my commandments, I will take you from your land and make‘ But if you become loyal to me again and start obeying⁹ .you live among the other nations That .your homeland of Judah my commandments once more, then I will bring you back to which I chose to start making myself famous throughout the world. I will from is the place ’.do this no matter how far you have been taken away

You did that .from slavery in Egypt We are your chosen people, whom you rescued¹⁰ O my Lord, please pay careful attention to my¹¹ .you are so very powerful easily because We are eager to honor you. Please grant .my fellow Israelites prayer and to the prayers of

an At that time, I was ”.will agree to the request that I hope to make soon that the king
.table the king’s important official who served the wine at

I prayed like this for four months. Then one day in the month of Nisan, still in¹ 2

When it was time to .the twentieth year of the reign of Artaxerxes, something happened
the wine, I took some and gave it to the king. I had never before looked sad in his serve
.presence

No one was supposed to look unhappy in the king’s presence. But the king noticed that I²
So he asked me, “Why are you sad? I can tell that you are not sick. You must .did look sad
.be unhappy about something.” This made me very afraid

,I am sorry !a very long time I replied to the king, “Your Majesty, I hope you will live³
I am sad because the city of Jerusalem, the place where my .but I cannot help being sad
”.have burned down its gates Our enemies .ancestors are buried, lies in ruins

,Before I answered him ”?me to do for you The king replied to me, “What do you want⁴
.I prayed to the God who is in heaven

to you, and if you are pleased idea Then I replied to the king, “If it seems like a good⁵
help my people to I would like .allow me to go to Judah, to Jerusalem please with me, then
”.rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried

with the queen sitting next to ,I was able to speak freely because this was a private meal⁶
the king. The king asked me, “How long would you be away?” I told him how long I would
be gone. That was acceptable to him, and he gave me permission to go. So I told him what
.I wanted to leave day

that I give me letters please ,to you idea I also said to the king, “If it seems like a good⁷
please tell them ,Beyond the River. In these letters the province to the governors of can show
for me a letter write also Please⁸ .passage through their province to Judah safe to give me
him to give me Please tell .in that area to Asaph, the man who takes care of your royal forest
Please .timber to make the beams to support the gates of the fortress that is near the temple
”.for the city wall and for the house that I will live in tell him to give me timber also

.requests my all of God was with me and helping me, and so the king agreed to

the king sent along some army officers and soldiers ,When I left to travel to Judah⁹
to see Beyond the River, I went the province When I reached .to protect me riding on horses
and they gave me safe ,its governors. I showed them the letters the king had given me
.passage

He was the .Sanballat the Horonite One of the people I showed my letters to was¹⁰
He and his deputy, Tobiah the Ammonite .governor of Samaria, the area right next to Judah
.became very upset when they learned that someone had come to help the people of Israel
They did not want to see Judah become strong again, because that would be a threat to
I stayed there for three .despite their opposition to Jerusalem safely But I made it¹¹ .Samaria
days

what God was leading me to do for Jerusalem. Instead, I got up publicly I did not say¹²
So that .a few other men with me only I brought .to inspect the city walls in the night secretly
.the only animal I brought with me was the one that I was riding ,we could work quietly

That night we went out through the Valley Gate and went past the Dragon Well to¹³
noted where the Rubbish Gate. We made a careful inspection of the walls of Jerusalem. We
.they had burned up the wooden gates where had broken down the walls, and our enemies
The opening there was so narrow .Then we came to the Fountain Gate and the Royal Pool¹⁴

the the path of So we followed¹⁵ .the animal I was riding could not get through that
and at the wall up we were able to look From there .it was night even though ,Brook Kidron
the city We re-entered .to where we started brought us back This route .see its condition
.home without being seen through the Valley Gate, and I went back

The city officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing. To that point I¹⁶
to the Jewish leaders, the priests, the leading citizens, or the anything about it had not said
.of rebuilding the walls doing the work about anyone I had not approached .city officials

now I said to them, “You see what a desperate situation we are in. You see that But¹⁷
do We need to .have burned down its gates our enemies Jerusalem lies in ruins, and
.join me in rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem I challenge all of you to !about this something
Then I told them how God had been¹⁸ ”.Then we will not have to feel ashamed any more
with me and had been helping me. I also told them how the king had given me permission
.to come

they said, “Let’s get going and start building!” They encouraged ,When they heard this
.to the project and committed themselves one another

Then Sanballat the Horonite, his deputy Tobiah the Ammonite, and Geshem the¹⁹
They ridiculed us .that we had started to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem Arabian heard
you But !mercilessly. They said, “What you are doing is not going to amount to anything
”!like that should not be rebelling against the king

I said, “The God who is in heaven is the one who will **.firmly** But I answered them²⁰
enable us to complete this project. We are his chosen people. We are going to start
”.rebuilding. But you have absolutely nothing to do with what happens in Jerusalem

.These are the names of the people who helped to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem¹ 3

.Eliashib the Supreme Priest and his fellow priests began by rebuilding the Sheep Gate
Then they set **.to God, as a symbolic way of dedicating the entire wall** They dedicated this gate
the doors of the Sheep Gate in place. They rebuilt the wall as far as the Tower of 100
to the Tower of Hananel. Then they dedicated that part of the wall **beyond that** Soldiers and
.as well to God

.part of the wall Next to them, people from Jericho rebuilt²

.part of the wall Next to them, Zaccur, the son of Imri, rebuilt

beams, they **wooden** The sons of Hassenaah rebuilt the Fish Gate. They framed it with³
.for locking the gate set its doors in place, and they installed bolts and bars

part of Next to them, Meremoth, the son of Uriah and grandson of Hakkoz, repaired⁴
.the wall

Next to him, Meshullam, the son of Berekiah and grandson of Meshezabel, repaired
.part of the wall

.part of the wall Next to him, Zadok the son of Baana repaired

But the leading **.part of the wall** Next to him, some people from Tekoa repaired⁵
of Judah had asked them to citizens of Tekoa were too proud to do the work that the leaders
.do

Joiada the son of Paseah, and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah, repaired the Old⁶
beams, they set its doors in place, and they installed bolts **wooden** Gate. They framed it with
.for locking the gate and bars

,Meronth the town of Gibeon, Jadon from the city of Next to them, Melatiah from⁷
They **.part of the wall** Mizpah repaired **city of** and other men from Gibeon and from the
.Beyond the River the province repaired it as far as the residence of the governor of

He was one of the **.part of the wall** Next to them, Uzziel the son of Harhaiah repaired⁸
.the workers who made jewelry and other objects from gold ,goldsmiths

He was one of the workers who made **.part of the wall** Next to him, Hananiah repaired **.perfumes**. They rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall

Rephaiah ruled half **.part of the wall** Next to them, Rephaiah the son of Hur repaired⁹ **.of the district of Jerusalem**

near his **the part of the wall** Next to him, Jedaiah the son of Harumaph repaired¹⁰ **.house**

.part of the wall Next to him, Hattush the son of Hashabneiah repaired

Malkijah the son of Harim and Hashub the son of Pahath-Moab repaired another¹¹ **.along with the Tower of the Ovens ,of the wall section**

Shallum ruled **.part of the wall** Next to them, Shallum the son of Hallohesh repaired¹² **.half of the district of Jerusalem. His daughters worked with him on the repairs other the**

Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They **the city of Hanun** and some people from¹³ **for locking the** rebuilt the gate, they set its doors in place, and they installed bolts and bars **.They also repaired 1500 feet of the wall, as far as the Rubbish Gate .gate**

Malkijah. the son of Rechab, repaired the Rubbish Gate. Malkijah ruled the district¹⁴ **of Beth-Hakkerem. He rebuilt the gate, he set its doors in place, and he installed bolts and .for locking the gate bars**

Shallun the son of Kol-Hozeh repaired the Fountain Gate. Shallun ruled the district¹⁵ **of Mizpah. He rebuilt the gate and put a roof over it, he set its doors in place, and he Near the Pool of Siloam he also repaired the .for locking the gate installed bolts and bars .wall next to the royal garden, as far as the steps that went down from the City of David**

as far as the place **the wall** Next to him, Nehemiah the son of Azbuk repaired¹⁶ **David, to the reservoir that the people had made and the the City of opposite the tombs in .army barracks. Nehemiah ruled half of the district of Beth-Zur**

One of them was Rehum the **.parts of the wall** Next to him, some Levites repaired¹⁷ **a son of Bani. Next to them, Hashabiah, who ruled half of the district of Keilah, repaired .on behalf of the people of his district section of the wall**

Next to them, Binnui the son **.section of the wall** repaired the next **Some other Levites**¹⁸ **.more of the wall of Henadad, who ruled the other half of the district of Keilah, repaired**

Ezer ruled **.of the wall** Next to him, Ezer the son of Jeshua repaired another section¹⁹
from a place in front of the steps that went up to the building **He started** .Mizpah **city of the**
.at the place where the wall bends slightly and he finished ,for storing weapons

Next to him, Baruch the son of Zabbai repaired another section with great²⁰
enthusiasm, from the bend in the wall as far as the door of the house of Eliashib the
Supreme Priest

Next to him, Meremoth, the son of Uriah and grandson of Hakkoz, repaired another²¹
section, from the door of the house of Eliashib to the end of that house

a section of the repaired Jerusalem Next to him, some priests from the area around²²
wall

opposite their house **a section** Next to them, Benjamin and Hasshub repaired²³
beside ,**section** Azariah, the son of Maaseiah and grandson of Ananiah, repaired the next
his house

Next to him, Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another section, from the house of²⁴
Palal the son of Uzai ,**Next to him**²⁵ .Azariah to the bend in the wall as far as the bulwark
the watchtower **where** He began at the place opposite the bend in the wall **.repaired a section**
That is near the courtyard where the **Solomon built** is taller than the upper palace that King
.repaired a section guards live. Next to him, Pedaiah the son of Parosh

as far as the eastern **repaired the wall Hill** The temple servants who lived on Ophel²⁶
a tall tower **where there is** ,side of the Water Gate

Next to them, the people from Tekoa repaired another section, from opposite the²⁷
Hill very tall watchtower as far as the wall at Ophel

the starting at the Horse Gate. Each one repaired the wall A group of priests repaired²⁸
in front of his own house **section**

in front of his house **the section** Next to them, Zadok the son of Immer repaired²⁹

Then Shemaiah the son of Shecaniah, who was the gatekeeper at the East Gate, repaired
section the next

,Next to him, Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph³⁰
repaired another section

opposite the rooms **the section** Next to them, Meshullam the son of Berechiah repaired
.lived he where

as far as **,section** one of the goldsmiths, repaired the next **another** Malkijah, who was³¹
the building used by the temple servants and the merchants. That building was opposite the
which **,of this building** as far as the upper apartments **rebuilt the wall** Appointment Gate. He
.were on the corner

the last section of goldsmiths, along with some merchants, repaired **other** Some of the³²
.from the corner apartments to the Sheep Gate **the wall**

,wall, he became furious **city** When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the¹ **4**
.and he mocked the Jews

officials and army officers. He said, “These weak **other provincial** He spoke to the²
the city! Their God Jews will not be able to accomplish anything! They will never restore
.that wall will not help them. They do not realize what a long time it would take to repair
the by pulling them out of rubbish heaps. And **is** they can get stones **The only way**
”.**anyway** stones are probably weak **the city, so those** burned **Babylonians**

Tobiah the Ammonite was standing beside Sanballat. He made fun of the Jews by³
that if a fox walked across the top **is so weak** saying, “Right! The wall that they are building
”!it would fall down **,of it**

O our God, listen“ **,When I heard about what they were saying, I prayed to God and said**⁴
other so that **,them fail in their attempts to stop us** they are mocking us! Make **to the way**
people will mock them! Allow their enemies to capture them and force them to go to a
Do not take away their **.They are guilty, and they have sinned against you**⁵ !foreign land
because they are also causing others to be **I am asking this** !guilt, and do not ignore their sin
”!angry at the people who are rebuilding the wall

we finished the wall around the **,and after some time** ,But we kept building the wall⁶
.whole city to about half the necessary height. Everyone was determined to accomplish this

the nation Arabia, the men from **the land of** But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the men from⁷
Ashdod heard that we were continuing to repair the **the city of** Ammon, and the men from **of**
All of them together made⁸ .wall of Jerusalem and to fill in the gaps, they became furious
a plan to come and fight against the people of Jerusalem. They wanted to make the people
and we **,to protect us** But we prayed to our God⁹ **.and divided** inside the city confused
.at all times to watch out for them **on the walls** stationed lookouts

are the stones Then the people of Judah started saying, “The people who are carrying¹⁰
finish getting worn out. There is too much rubbish. We are not going to be able to
”.rebuilding the wall

know we are coming, we will the Jews saying, “Before started Then our enemies¹¹
”!on the wall on them and kill them and stop their work down rush

they ,to Jerusalem came our enemies And when some of the Jews who lived near¹²
”!us can defend they home so return our men pleaded with us repeatedly, “Let

behind the wall at the places where it was low or where there were guards But I put¹³
with their swords, spears, and guard gaps. I also had people from each family group stand
I summoned the leading citizens and ,everything After I had inspected¹⁴ .bows and arrows
the city officials and many of the other people, and I said to them, “Do not be afraid of our
And fight to .what he can do think about so ,enemies! The Lord is great and awesome
”!your families, your sons and daughters, your wives, and your homes protect

they realized that ,their plan When our enemies learned that we had found out about¹⁵
So we all .They decided not to attack us .from launching a surprise attack God had kept them
.as before work the same the wall. Each person continued doing working on went back to
stood The other half of them .on the wall half of my servants worked only ,But after that¹⁶
behind stood armed with spears, shields, bows and arrows, and metal armor. Officers guard
.to encourage everyone and to give orders in case there was an attack the workers and guards
had always Those who were building the wall and those who carried the heavy loads¹⁷
Each¹⁸ .so that they would be prepared to fight off an attack their weapons with them
someone next to me who I stationed .builder worked with his sword strapped to his side
.if we needed a signal would blow a ram’s horn

,Then I said to the leading citizens, the city officials, and many of the other people¹⁹
We are working over a very wide area, and we are far apart from each other along the“
sounding the ram’s horn, gather around us at that the man But wherever you hear²⁰ .wall
”!place. Our God will fight for us

and served as guards Half of the men .on rebuilding the wall So we continued to work²¹

At that time, I also said to the people, “Each²² .times all kept their weapons ready at
and not go home if they live and his servant must spend the night inside Jerusalem worker
at night, and they can even the city will have plenty of defenders That way .outside the city
none of us took off our During that time²³ ”.during the daytime on the wall work still
clothes. I did not, and my brothers, my servants, and my personal bodyguard did not. Each
.even when we were washing ourselves ,with us our weapons always had of us

many of the men and their wives complained bitterly **,Around this same time**^{1 5}

.about what their fellow Jews were doing to them

food to feed **a lot of** Some of them began, “We have many children. We need to get²
”.**all** them

Others added, “We have had to promise to give someone our fields, vineyards, and³
to to borrow the money has loaned us. We had **he** houses if we do not pay back the money
”.buy food during this time when food is scarce

the taxes that the king **pay** Still others said, “We have had to borrow money to⁴
.This is how bad things have gotten⁵ .on our fields and our vineyards **commanded us to pay**
.We are selling our children into slavery. In fact, we have even sold some of our daughters
so there was **,we pledged as security for loans** Our creditors took the fields and vineyards
we could do. But we are Jews, just like the people who are doing these things **else** nothing
”!**to** us

⁷ I got very angry when I heard these things that they were complaining about⁶
thought hard about what to do. Then I brought charges against the leading citizens and the
the charges against them. **I to hear** city officials. I called together a large group of people
You know that is .to your fellow Jews **on loans** told these leaders, “You are charging interest
”.**forbidden in the Law of Moses**

I said to them, “Whenever our fellow Jews have had to sell themselves into slavery to⁸
our ability we have been buying them back. But **the best of** nations, to **other** people from
.you are actually selling your fellow Jews into slavery to get back the money they owe you
These are some of the very people we have been buying back!” They knew that these
.charges were true, so there was absolutely nothing they could say in response

Then I said to them, “What you are doing is wrong! You certainly ought to obey God⁹
I myself, my¹⁰ .and do what is right! Otherwise, our enemies will mock us even more
to anyone in need without relatives, and my servants have been lending money and grain
Give them back their¹¹ .All of us should stop charging interest on loans **.charging interest**
fields, vineyards, olive orchards, and houses. Do it right away! And pay back the 12%
on the money, grain, wine, and olive oil that you **interest you have been collecting** annual
”.have lent them

,their fields These leaders replied, “Yes, we will do what you say. We will give back¹²
”.**interest them charging** And we will stop **.vineyards, olive orchards, and houses**

that they **to God in front of them** Then I called the priests, and I made the leaders swear I also shook out the folds of my robe and said to¹³ .would do what they had promised them, “In this same way, may God fling anyone who does not keep this oath away from
”!everything he owns. Yes, may that person lose everything

Then everyone who was there said, “We agree!” And they praised Yahweh. After that none of the Jews took houses or fields to guarantee loans, and none of them charged
.interest any more

had ,**of Persia** Here is something else I did to help the people. Artaxerxes, the king¹⁴
of his Judah during the twentieth year **the province of** appointed me to be the governor of
During the twelve years from the time that he appointed me until the thirty-second .**reign**
I did not use it to feed year of his reign, I did not accept the governor’s food allowance, and
The¹⁵ .**I knew that the people were poor and could not afford to pay for it** .my relatives
governors before me had made life very difficult for the people. They had demanded that
the people supply them with bread and wine and forty silver shekels every day. Even their
servants oppressed the people. But I respected and honored God, and so I did not oppress
did not buy **My relatives and I** .the wall **rebuilding** I devoted myself to the work of¹⁶ .them
.**even though we could have gotten it cheaply because the poor were so desperate** ,any property
.**on the wall** I also assigned all of my servants to work

feeding 150 Jewish leaders and city officials. I also **was responsible for** I ,**As governor**¹⁷
I told my servants Each day¹⁸ .visitors who came from nearby countries **Jewish** entertained
one ox, six good sheep, and various kinds of poultry. I paid for these **for us** to prepare
I myself. Every ten days I also brought in an abundant supply of various kinds of wine. But
I paid for all of these things at my the people were struggling to survive, and so **knew that**
.**I did not accept the governor’s food allowance** .**own expense**

My God, think of me, and reward me for all the good that I have done for the people¹⁹
.**of Judah**

Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arabian, and our other enemies learned that we¹ **6**
had finished rebuilding the wall, and that there were now no more gaps in it. (However, we
a message that So Sanballat and Geshem sent me² (.had not yet put the doors in the gates
I said, “We want to arrange to meet with you in one of the villages in the plain of Ono.” But
.**they wanted to harm me** **knew that they were saying this because**

is very important. I am **here** So I sent messengers to tell them, “The work I am doing³
There is no reason for me to stop the work and leave it .**while it is going on** not able to travel
”.so that I can meet with you

I refused them for this **each time** They sent me the same message four times, and⁴
same reason

Then Sanballat sent one of his servants to me bringing the same request for a fifth⁵
left the letter time. This time the message was written, but it was not sealed. Sanballat
unsealed so that others would find out what it said, because he wanted to pressure me to meet
are saying, and Geshem **around us** the countries **The people in**“, The letter said⁶ .**with him**
against King that you and the Jewish people are planning to rebel ,**that it is true** confirms
saying that you intend to **They are also** .That is why you are rebuilding the wall .**Artaxerxes**
you have **saying that also These people are**⁷ .become the king of the Jews yourself
appointed prophets to make a proclamation about you in Jerusalem. They are saying, ‘The
and ,King Artaxerxes will certainly hear these reports ’!**of their own** have a king **now** Jews
So we really should meet together and talk .**when he does, he will be very angry with you**
”.about this

back to him saying, “None of these things that you are saying are **a message** I sent⁸
”.true. You are just making them up yourself

The Jews will“, frighten us. They thought **just trying to** I knew that they were all⁹
and they will never finish ,**on the wall** they will stop working **become so afraid that**
”.give me courage ,**I prayed, “O God So ”.rebuilding it**

I went to visit Shemaiah, the son of Delaiah and grandson of **Around this time**¹⁰
He was a .**his house** he was not leaving **I went to see him in his home, because** .Mehetabel
.priest, and he was trying to show that it was not safe for Jewish leaders to go out in public
,**We need to go into the temple and lock the doors .We are not safe even here**“, He told me
”.because people are trying to kill you. One night they are going to come and kill you

I responded, “I am not the kind of man who would run away! Besides, I am the¹¹
hide in the **trying to** so I could not save my life by ,**and everyone knows me** ,governor
”!temple. I refuse to do it

All of a sudden I realized that God had not given Shemaiah a prophetic message for¹²
to say me. Instead, he was saying these things because Tobiah and Sanballat had paid him
would scare me. They **say things that** had paid him the money specifically to **They**¹³ .**them**
by abandoning my responsibilities and hiding in the were hoping they could make me sin
.they would have ruined my reputation and discredited me ,**If I had done that .temple**

My God, treat Tobiah and Sanballat the way they deserve for what they“ ,**So I prayed**¹⁴
have done. Do the same for the female prophet Noadiah and all the other prophets who are
”.make me afraid **trying to**

of the month of Elul, after **day** the wall on the twenty-fifth **rebuilding** We finished¹⁵
for 52 days **working on it**

When all of our enemies learned that we had completed the rebuilding in such a¹⁶
This made the people in the **.us** short time, they realized that our God must have helped
During this time, the leading citizens of¹⁷ **.countries** around us lose all of their confidence
and he was **,to give him information about me** Judah were writing many letters to Tobiah
a Tobiah was married to the daughter of¹⁸ **.with instructions** sending letters back to them
Shecaniah the son of Arah. His son **,powerful and influential member of the community**
Meshullam **,another powerful and influential man** Jehohanan was married to the daughter of
the son of Berechiah. And so, for those reasons, many people in Judah had sworn oaths to
tell me what **come and** would also **The people who were loyal to Tobiah**¹⁹ **.Tobiah be loyal to**
.in response good things he was doing, and then they would report to him everything I said
.Tobiah also sent me many letters to try to make me afraid

,Once we had finished rebuilding the wall and we had put the doors in the gates¹ **7**
I appointed two men² **.we assigned the gatekeepers and singers and Levites to their tasks**
govern Jerusalem, my brother Hanani and Hananiah, the commander of the **help me to**
I appointed Hananiah because he was trustworthy, and because he **.in Jerusalem** fortress
.showed God more reverence and respect than most people do

That way we I told them, “Do not open the gates of Jerusalem until broad daylight³
and the gates Have the gatekeepers close **.will be able to see anything our enemies are doing**
the gates before they go home for put the bars across the doors while they are still guarding
I also told them, “Have the men who live in Jerusalem take turns keeping watch **”.the night**
”.in their own neighborhoods

not many people lived in **at that time** The city of Jerusalem covered a large area, but⁴
as a first step towards filling So⁵ **.for themselves** the city, and they had not yet built houses
God led me to gather together the leading citizens and the city **,Jerusalem with people again**
to register them according to their family **living in the city** officials and the other people
histories. I also found a book containing the records of the first group of people who had
.from the exile. This is what those records said to Jerusalem returned

.the people from Judah who returned home from exile the names of These are⁶
But they **.to Babylon away their ancestors** Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had taken
towns where **same** Judah. They returned to the **other places in** returned to Jerusalem and to
.ancestors had lived their

,The people who came back were following Zerubbabel, Joshua, Nehemiah, Azariah⁷
.Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, and Baanah

:clan who returned Israelite each the number of men from This is a list of

;Parosh the clan of men from 2172⁸

;Shephatiah the clan of men from 372⁹

;Arah the clan of men from 652¹⁰

;Pahath-Moab, who are descendants of Jeshua and Joab the clan of men from 2818¹¹

;Elam the clan of men from 1254¹²

;Zattu the clan of men from 845¹³

;Zakkai the clan of men from 760¹⁴

;Binnui the clan of men from 648¹⁵

;Bebai the clan of men from 628¹⁶

;Azgad the clan of men from 2322¹⁷

;Adonikam the clan of men from 667¹⁸

;Bigvai the clan of men from 2067¹⁹

;Adin the clan of men from 655²⁰

;Ater who were descendants of Hezekiah the clan of men from 98²¹

;Hashum the clan of men from 328²²

;Bezai the clan of men from 324²³

;Hariph the clan of men from 112²⁴

.Gibeon the clan of men from 95²⁵

:also returned, whose ancestors had lived in these towns men Some other²⁶

;men from Bethlehem and Netophah 188

;men from Anathoth 128²⁷

;men from Beth-Azmaveth 42²⁸

;men from Kiriath-Jearim, Kephirah and Beeroth 743²⁹

;men from Ramah and Geba 621³⁰

;men from Michmas 122³¹

;men from Bethel and Ai 123³²

;called Nebo **small town** men from a 52³³

;called Elam **small town** men from a 1254³⁴

;men from Harim 320³⁵

;men from Jericho 345³⁶

;men from Lod, Hadid, and Ono 721³⁷

.men from Senaah 3930³⁸

:These priests also returned³⁹

;Jedaiah who are descendants of Jeshua **the clan of** men from 973

;Immer **the clan of** men from 1052⁴⁰

;Pashhur **the clan of** men from 1247⁴¹

.Harim **the clan of** men from 1017⁴²

:These Levites also returned⁴³

Kadmiel, all of them descendants of **the clan of** men from the clan of Jeshua and 74
.Hodevah

All of them were from the clan of .also returned choir **sacred** members of the 148⁴⁴
.Asaph

They were from the clan of Shallum, the clan .also returned gatekeepers **temple** 138⁴⁵
.of Ater, the clan of Talmon, the clan of Akkub, the clan of Hatita, and the clan of Shobai

Some temple workers also returned. They were from the clan of Ziha, the clan of⁴⁶
, the clan of Keros, the clan of Sia, the clan of Padon⁴⁷ , Hasupha, the clan of Tabbaoth
the clan of Hanan, the⁴⁹ , the clan of Lebanah, the clan of Hagabah, the clan of Shalmai⁴⁸
the clan of Reaiah, the clan of Rezin, the clan of⁵⁰ , clan of Giddel, the clan of Gahar
, the clan of Besai⁵² , the clan of Gazzam, the clan of Uzza, the clan of Paseah⁵¹ , Nekoda
, the clan of Bakbuk, the clan of Hakupha⁵³ , the clan of Meunim, the clan of Nephushesim
the⁵⁵ , the clan of Bazlith, the clan of Mehida, the clan of Harsha⁵⁴ , the clan of Harhur
the clan of Neziah, and the clan of⁵⁶ , clan of Barkos, the clan of Sisera, the clan of Temah
. Hatipha

.first conscripted also returned Some descendants of the laborers that King Solomon⁵⁷
the clan⁵⁸ , These were from the clan of Sotai, the clan of Sophereth, the clan of Perida
the clan of Shephatiah, the clan of⁵⁹ , of Jaalah, the clan of Darkon, the clan of Giddel
Altogether, there were⁶⁰ . Hattil, the clan of Pochereth-Hazzebaim, and the clan of Amon
.who returned laborers conscripted workers and temple descendants of the 392

, Tel-Melah, Tel-Harsha **that came from the towns of** Another group also returned⁶¹
But they could not prove that they were **.in Babylonia** Kerub, Addon, and Immer
.descendants of Israelites

These 642 men were from the clan of Delaiah, the clan of Tobiah, and the clan of⁶²
. Nekoda

, from the clan of Hobaiah, the clan of Hakkoz **also returned who were** Some priests⁶³
and the clan of Barzillai. Barzillai had married a woman who was a descendant of a man
. named Barzillai from the region of Gilead. He had taken the family name of his wife
, searched the records that contained the names of the Israelite ancestors **priests** These⁶⁴
They did not qualify to be priests because . but they could not find the names of their families
the rights and so they were not allowed to have ,they could not trace their family history
The governor told them that they must not eat any of the share of food⁶⁵ . **priests duties of**
in taken from the sacrifices and kept for the priests. They would have to wait until the priest
.about this situation what to do God had begun his duties and could ask **charge of the temple**
.returned to Judea Altogether, 42360 people⁶⁶

There were also 7337 male servants and female servants, and 245 male singers and⁶⁷
. female singers

435⁶⁹ ,horses, 245 mules 736 The Israelites also brought back from Babylonia⁶⁸
.camels, and 6720 donkeys

of rebuilding the for the work gifts Some of the leaders of the ancestral clans gave⁷⁰
.temple

to be used The governor gave into the treasury more than 8 kilograms of gold, 50 bowls
.and 530 robes for the priests ,in the temple

treasury for the temple Some of the leaders of the ancestral clans also gave into the⁷¹
.kilograms of gold, and 1460 kilograms of silver 153 of rebuilding the temple a total of work

kilograms of gold, 1330 153 a total of And the remainder of the people gave⁷²

So the priests, the Levites, the⁷³ ".kilograms of silver, and 67 robes for the priests
live in the started to workers, and many ordinary people temple gatekeepers, the singers, the
All these people were Israelites. By .ancestors had lived their of Judea where cities towns and
.the Israelites had gone to their cities and had started living in them all of the seventh month

A huge crowd of people gathered together in the plaza that was near the Water¹ 8
had written Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring out the scroll of the law that Moses
for them to obey its rules and and which Yahweh had given to the people of Israel ,down
brought out ,who served God by offering sacrifices in the temple ,Ezra the priest² .commands
who children before all the people, to both men and women, and and presented it the law
were old enough to understand what he read. He did this on the first day of the seventh
So he read aloud from the book in the plaza that was near the Water³ .of that year month
Gate throughout the whole morning. He read it in front of all the people, both men and
to understand what he read. And all the people were old enough who children women and
Ezra the scribe stood on top⁴ .on the scroll listened carefully to the laws that were written
wooden platform that the people had built for this purpose. At his right side stood high of a
,Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah. At his left side stood Pedaiah
stood on Ezra⁵ .Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam
above all the people so that everyone could see him. He opened the scroll, and the platform
.as he did that all the people stood up

to Then Ezra praised Yahweh, the great God, and all the people lifted up their hands⁶
they said, "We agree!" Then At the end of his prayer .show that they were praying with him
.they all bowed down with their faces touching the ground, and they worshiped Yahweh
,Then Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita⁷
Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, who were all Levites, explained the meaning of the laws

They read clearly from the scroll of the⁸ .to the people who were standing there of Moses Ezra and law of God, and they explained what it meant, so that the people understood what .were reading the others

Then the people began to cry from sadness when they heard what the law said. So⁹ Nehemiah (who was the governor), Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were explaining the meaning to the people, said to all the people, “Today is a festival day on ”!which you are supposed to worship Yahweh your God. Do not mourn or cry

go home, eat some good food, and drink Now“, Then Nehemiah said to them¹⁰ rich food and something sweet. And share some of it with those who are not able to afford our Lord. So do not grieve, because to worship because today is a holy day set apart ,drink ”.the joy that Yahweh gives will strengthen you

to stop, saying, “Today is a holy who were crying The Levites also told the people¹¹ ”.day! So, shhh. Do not grieve

to eat and drink and share what they had. And they home So all the people went¹² Ezra had read and the words that the meaning of were very happy, because they understood .the others had explained to them

On the next day, the clan leaders of all the people and the priests and the Levites met¹³ carefully what was written in the law to study together with Ezra the scribe. They wanted They learned that¹⁴ .better They wanted to understand it .that Yahweh had given to Moses the law said that Yahweh had told Moses to command the Israelite people to live in shelters This was so that they would remember that their .during a festival in the seventh month They¹⁵ .ancestors had lived in shelters when they walked in the wilderness after leaving Egypt that they should publicly proclaim, in all their towns and in Jerusalem, that the learned also people should go into the hills and cut branches. These should be from olive trees, wild olive trees, myrtle trees, palm trees, and shade trees. They must bring these branches and .That was what the scroll instructed .to live in during the festival make shelters

to make them and brought of the towns and cut branches So the people went out¹⁶ in their ,of their houses roofs flat shelters for themselves. They built shelters on the courtyards, in the courtyards of the temple, in the plaza near the Water Gate, and in the All of the Israelite people who had returned from Babylon¹⁷ .plaza near the Ephraim Gate Now the Israelite people had never celebrated .for one week built shelters and lived in them This was the .led them into this territory like this since Joshua the son of Nun that festival Every day during that¹⁸ .time they were doing it. And the people were very happy first from the scroll of the law of God. They celebrated the to the people read aloud Ezra week

so festival for seven days. On the eighth day, they called for all the people to come together .That was what the scroll instructed .they could hold a ceremony to bring the festival to an end

To show that they .Two days later, the Israelite people gathered together again¹ 9
rough cloth clothes made from they went without food, they wore ,were sorry for their sins
The descendants of Israel separated themselves away² .heads and they put dirt on their
from all the descendants of foreigners. They stood there and confessed their own sins and
listened to someone They stood in place and³ .the wicked things their ancestors had done
read from the scroll of the law of Yahweh their God for three hours. Then for another three
hours they confessed their sins and bowed down and worshiped Yahweh their God

,the Levites stood up on the stairs, including Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel Some of⁴
named Bani, and Kenani. And they cried out man Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, another
Then some Levites spoke. They were⁵ .in a loud voice to Yahweh their God sorrowfully
named Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah

live and will lived They said, “Stand up and praise Yahweh your God, who has always
forever! Yahweh, we praise your glorious name! Your name is more important than
You are Yahweh, and no one else. You made⁶ !everything else that is good and wonderful
You .above the earth the heavens that are above everything, and all that lives in the heavens
made the earth and everything that is on it, and you made the seas and everything that is in
in the lives them. You are the one who causes all living things to be alive. Everything that
.worships you above the earth heavens

the city You are Yahweh! You are the God who chose Abram and brought him out of⁷
You saw that⁸ .You changed his name to Abraham .lived Ur, where the Chaldean people of
,pledged with blood he was faithful to you in his inner being. You made a promise to him
and to his descendants. This was the land to him promising that you would give a land
where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, and the
.do what is right always And you did what you promised, because you .lived Girgashites

mistreated our ancestors in Egypt. You heard them cry the Egyptians You saw how⁹
the leaders of You knew that¹⁰ .when they were beside the Red Sea to you for help out
very arrogantly. So you performed miracles for Pharaoh our ancestors were treating Egypt
You made .These proved you are the true God .and his officials and all the people of Egypt
your people You divided the sea in front of¹¹ !yourself famous, and you are still famous
the through the middle of the sea on dry land. But you drowned walked and they ,Israel
!under the waters. They sank as a stone sinks in deep water soldiers of the Egyptian army
pillar. At night you that looked like a huge by a cloud your people During the day you led¹²

pillar. It shone on the path in front of them to show **that looked like a huge** led them by a fire
were at Sinai Mountain, you **our ancestors** When¹³ .them where they should walk
appeared to them and spoke to them from heaven. You gave them honest instructions and
You taught them about¹⁴ .trustworthy laws. You gave them good rules and commands
You gave commands .**from the other days of the week** It is set apart .**day of rest** your Sabbath
When they were hungry, you¹⁵ .and rules and laws for the people by your servant Moses
.gave them bread from heaven. When they were thirsty, you gave them water from a rock
which you had promised with a vow to ,**of Canaan** You told them to go and take the land
.give them

But our ancestors were proud and stubborn. They refused to obey what you¹⁶
They refused to obey you. They did not consider all the¹⁷ .**to do** commanded them
.miracles that you had performed for them. They became stubborn and rebelled against you
But **!again** where they would be slaves ,**to Egypt** back **them** They appointed a leader to take
You do not .**toward us** you are a God who forgives us. You act kindly and mercifully
our very much. So you did not leave **us** become angry quickly. Instead, you faithfully love
even though they made ,**you did not leave them alone** Indeed¹⁸ .**in the desert** alone **ancestors**
This is our god, who‘ ,**about the idol** a calf. They said **that resembled** an idol for themselves
But because you¹⁹ .brought us up out of Egypt.’ By doing that they insulted you greatly
always act mercifully, you did not leave them alone in the desert. During the daytime, the
you pillar above them continued to lead them in the way **that looked like a huge** cloud
pillar shone on the **that looked like a huge** And during the night, the fire .**wanted them to go**
You gave them your good Spirit to²⁰ .path in front of them to show them where to walk
instruct them. You continued to give them manna when they were hungry, and you gave
.For forty years you took care of them in the desert²¹ .them water when they were thirsty
During all that time, they had everything they needed. Their clothes did not wear out. Their
our You helped²² .**even though they were continually walking** ,feet did not swell up
you ,**By doing that** .many people **who ruled** kings **the armies of great** to defeat **ancestors**
They took over the land that King .**of this land** to settle in every part **our ancestors** allowed
.area Heshbon and the land that King Og ruled in the Bashan **the city of** Sihon ruled from
You .**in the sky** that they were like the stars **our ancestors** You gave so many children to²³
brought them into this land, which you had told their parents to enter and take for
.so that they could live there themselves

Their children went in and took the land. You enabled them to defeat the people who²⁴
Canaan. You enabled them to conquer their **the descendants of** were living there. They were
there. They were able to do whatever they wanted to **lived** kings and all the people who
captured cities that had walls around them. They took **Our ancestors**²⁵ .those people
possession of fertile fields. They took possession of houses that were already full of all

kinds of good things, and wells that someone had already dug. They took possession of many vineyards and groves of olive trees and fruit trees. They ate all that they wanted and .for them the many good things you did all became fat. They enjoyed

But they turned against you. They rejected your law. They killed the prophets who²⁶ did very evil things said and you. They obeying warned them that they should return to

So you allowed their enemies to defeat them. But when their enemies²⁷ .against you caused them to suffer, they called out to you. You heard them from heaven, and because rescued them from leaders you are very merciful, you sent them people to help them. Those .their enemies

again did evil things that you our ancestors ,again peace a time of But when there was²⁸ whenever and rule over them. But them So you allowed their enemies to conquer .hated .you heard them from heaven ,to help them they returned to you and cried out to you again You warned them²⁹ .act mercifully always You rescued them many times, because you .and stubborn But they became proud .again your laws obeying that they should return to They would not listen to your commands. They sinned by disobeying your decrees, even though a person lives by obeying them. They purposely ignored what you commanded .them to do. They became stubborn and refused to obey

your the messages You were patient with them for a long time. You warned them by³⁰ So again you allowed .to those messages Spirit gave to your prophets. But they did not listen ,But because you act very mercifully³¹ .of the nations nearby to defeat them the armies you did not destroy them completely. You never left them alone. Yes, you are a very !gracious and merciful God

promises your fulfill always Our God, you are great and mighty and awesome! You³² .Do not ignore all our difficulties :we are praying So now !us faithfully love always and ,Consider all the troubles that our kings, our leaders, our priests, our prophets, our ancestors and all of your people have experienced. We have been experiencing these troubles since until now. We are still experiencing them conquered us the kings of Assyria the armies of ,all these things happen to us. Yes letting you have acted fairly in We know that³³ .today ,our kings ,In the past³⁴ .deserve. But we have done evil things we as us you have treated ancestors did not obey your laws. They did not listen other our leaders, our priests and our They had their own kings. They³⁵ .to your commands or the warnings that you gave them the many good things that you provided in this large and fertile land that you gave enjoyed .they did not serve you. They would not stop doing evil things ,even then them. But

slaves here in this land that you gave to live like Consider our situation! Today we³⁶ our ancestors. You gave them this land so that they could enjoy all the good things that

The kings whom you³⁷ .slaves on this land like grow here. But consider us now! We are the good things that grow here. This is because all have allowed to rule over us are enjoying .we have sinned. They rule over our bodies and our cattle. They do whatever they please are making a solemn the Israelite people Because of all this, we³⁸ .We feel great distress our leaders, our the names of agreement. We are writing it on a scroll. We will write down ”.Levites, and our priests. Then we will seal the scroll

:the people who signed the agreement the names of These are¹ 10

.Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hakaliah; Zedekiah the scribe

:The priests who signed the agreement included²

,Hattush, Shebaniah⁴ ,Pashhur, Amariah, Malkijah³ ,Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah ,Meshullam⁷ ,Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch⁶ ,Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah⁵ ,Malluk who the priests the names of Maaziah, Bilgai, and Shemaiah. Those are⁸ ,Abijah, Mijamin .signed the agreement

:were who signed the agreement The Levites⁹

,Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui from the clan of Henadad, Kadmiel

,Shebaniah, Hodiah :signed the agreement, including their associates also Some of¹⁰ ,Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan

Hodiah, Bani, and¹³ ,Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah¹² ,Mika, Rehob, Hashabiah¹¹ .Beninu

:were who signed the agreement The Israelite leaders¹⁴

,Adonijah¹⁶ ,Bunni, Azgad, Bebai¹⁵ ,Parosh, Pahath-Moab, Elam, Zattu, and Bani ,Hariph, Anathoth¹⁹ ,Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai¹⁸ ,Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur¹⁷ ,Bigvai, Adin ,Pelatiah²² ,Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua²¹ ,Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir²⁰ ,Nebai ,Rehum²⁵ ,Hollohesh, Pilha, Shobek²⁴ ,Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub²³ ,Hanan, Anaiah .Malluk, Harim, and Baanah²⁷ ,also Ahiah, Hanan, Anan²⁶ ,Hashabnah, Maaseiah

the priests, the joined in this solemn agreement. This included The rest of the people²⁸ everyone who It also included .workers temple Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, and the agreed only to worship and obey the God of Israel, along with their wives and their sons joined all They²⁹ .doing to understand what they were old enough and daughters who were

with their leaders, who were important people, and together they all made a solemn the laws that God had given by Moses his servant. They agreed that **all** agreement to obey his **all of** ,they would strictly obey everything that Yahweh our God had commanded, yes

in We will not give our daughters“ :**they promised to do** This is what³⁰ .instructions We will not allow our .**who do not worship Yahweh** in this land **who live** to people marriage in this land might bring **who live** People from other groups³¹ .sons to marry their daughters merchandise and all kinds of food to sell on Sabbath days. But we will not buy anything **the** or any other sacred day. Every seventh year, we will let **day** from them on a Sabbath we will not make anyone pay back **and not plant any crops. That same year** rest fields year we **every** We each also agreed to a pledge that³² .to another person **anything they owe** Here is a list of those³³ .needed for the temple **supplies** would pay 4 grams of silver for the **burned on the altar** The grain that is .**before God** bread that is placed **sacred** The .**supplies** each day. The sacred **on the altar** are completely burned up **The animals that** .each day that **festivals** offerings for the Sabbath days and for celebrating each new moon and other to be **The animals .to God** offerings that are dedicated **Other .us to celebrate** told **God** for the **that is needed** sacrificed to atone for the sins of the Israelite people. Anything else .the temple **taking care of** work of

the We have cast lots to determine when each clan of the priests, the Levites, and³⁴ the people will bring an offering of wood to the temple. Each clan will do this at an **rest of** on the altar **the sacrifices** the wood to burn **The Levites will use** .appointed time every year .**he gave through Moses** that belongs to Yahweh our God. He commanded this in the law that we **grain** to the temple every year from the first **an offering** We will also bring³⁵ We will also do something³⁶ .all our trees **grows on** and from all the first fruit that **harvest** and ,**for dedication** else that God commanded. We will bring our firstborn sons to the temple to the priests who minister in the ,**as sacrifices** our firstborn calves and lambs and goats can store in the temple. These **they** We will also bring supplies to the priests that³⁷ .temple **our** the first fruit from all ,**make** the first flour we ,**harvest** will include the first grain that we We will also bring 10 percent of our .**that we produce** trees, and the first wine and olive oil harvest to the Levites. We will allow them to collect this 10 percent right in all the towns **and** A priest, one of the descendants of Aaron, will be with the Levites³⁸ .where we work them when they collect that 10 percent. Then the Levites must bring 10 percent of **supervise** in the storerooms and it will **The priests will put it** .what they have received to the temple That is how it will work. The Israelites and the Levites will bring their³⁹ .**them** support will **the priests** offerings of grain, wine, and olive oil to those storerooms. That is where for the **they will keep the food supplies** store the equipment for the temple. And that is where .priests, the gatekeepers, and the singers who are serving at that time

”.We promise that we will keep taking care of the temple

The rest of the **.with their families** leaders settled in Jerusalem **Israelite** So the¹ 11 people cast lots to select one family out of ten to live in Jerusalem. That was the city set **asked** The people² **.towns other** The remaining nine families lived in the **.for God** apart **.bless all those who volunteered to live in Jerusalem God to**

the provincial officials who settled in Jerusalem. But in the **the names of** These are³ towns of Judah, everyone lived on his own family property in their towns. This included the Israelites, the priests, the Levites, the temple servants, and the descendants of the servants But some of the people of Judah and some of the people of Benjamin stayed⁴ **.of Solomon** **.and lived in Jerusalem**

.the leaders who lived in Jerusalem the names of Here are

From the descendants of Judah, one of them was Athaiah the son of Uziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalalel, a descendant of **.Perez**

Another one was Maaseiah the son of Baruch, the son of Kol-Hozeh, the son of⁵ Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Joarib, the son of Zechariah, who was one of the **the** Altogether 468 men who were descendants of Perez lived in⁶ **.descendants of Shelah** **.brave and skilled in combat very** Jerusalem. These men were **city of**

.who decided to live in Jerusalem These are the descendants of Benjamin⁷

One of them was Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Joed, the son of Pedaiiah, the **.son of Kolaiah, the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ithiel, the son of Jeshaiiah**

from the Two men who assisted him were Gabbai and Sallai. Altogether 928 people⁸ Their leader was Joel the son of Zichri. Judah the⁹ **.tribe of Benjamin settled in Jerusalem** **.second in command in Jerusalem the official who was** son of Hassenuah was

.included Jedaiah the son of Joarib, and Jachin who settled in Jerusalem The priests¹⁰ ,Another priest was Seraiah the son of Hilkiyah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok¹¹ Another 822 of¹² **.the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub. He was in charge of the temple** **who performed work for the temple. Another priest settled in Jerusalem and their associates** ,was Adaiah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Pelaliah, the son of Amzi **settled in Jerusalem**

Another 242 of his¹³ **.the son of Zechariah, the son of Pashhur, the son of Malkijah** **Another priest .settled in Jerusalem ,associates, including the leaders of their ancestral clans** was Amashsai the son of Azarel, the son of Ahzai, the son of **who settled there**

Another 128 of their associates who were strong men¹⁴ .Meshillemoth, the son of Immer
 .Their leader was Zabdiel the son of Haggedolim .settled in Jerusalem

was Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the who settled in Jerusalem One of the Levites¹⁵
 Two others were Shabbethai¹⁶ .son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni
 .and Jozabad, who supervised the work outside the temple and were leaders of the Levites
 was Mattaniah, who directed the temple choir who settled in Jerusalem Another Levite¹⁷
 when they sang the prayers to thank God. He was the son of Mika, the son of Zabdi, the son
 of Asaph. His assistant choir director was Bakbukiah. Another Levite was Abda, the son of
 Altogether, 284 Levites settled in¹⁸ .Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun
 .for God the city set apart ,Jerusalem

included Akkub, Talmon, and 172 of their who settled in Jerusalem The gatekeepers¹⁹
 .associates who kept watch at the gates

The rest of the Israelite people, including the priests and the Levites, all lived on²⁰
 workers lived on Ophel temple The²¹ .their own property in all the other towns in Judea
 .and Ziha and Gishpa supervised them ;Hill in Jerusalem

The man who supervised the Levites who lived in Jerusalem was Uzzi the son of²²
 Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Mika. Uzzi was one of the
 descendants of Asaph. These were the singers responsible for the music in the temple
 for the that his kingdom would provide support had said of Persia Now the king²³ .services
 singers. The king had said to give them whatever they needed to maintain the singing in the
 for any matter of Persia to the king ambassador Pethahiah was the²⁴ .temple services
 He was the son of Meshezabel, who was one of the descendants .Israelites pertaining to the
 .of Zerah, the son of Judah

towns Some of the descendants of Judah did not settle in Jerusalem. They lived in²⁵
 Kiriath-Arba and its neighboring the city of villages near their farms. These included and
 Jekabzeel and its the town of Dibon and its neighboring villages, and the city of ,villages
 the ,Jeshua the town of in lived also Some descendants of Judah²⁶ .neighboring villages
 the city of Hazar-Shual, and the town of²⁷ ,Beth-Pelet the town of ,Moladah town of
 the town of ,Ziklag the town of in lived also Some²⁸ .Beersheba and its neighboring villages
 the ,Zora the town of ,En-Rimmon the town of²⁹ ,Mekonah and its neighboring villages
 the city of ,Zanoah and Adullam and the nearby villages the towns of³⁰ ,Jarmuth town of
 .Azekah and the nearby villages the town of Lachish and the nearby farms, and

in the between Beersheba in the territory of Judah, in the area those people settled All of Some people who were descendants of³¹ .in the north and the Valley of Hinnom south Geba, Michmas, Aija, Bethel and its neighboring :settled in these cities and towns Benjamin ,Hadid, Zeboim³⁴ ,Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim³³ ,Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah³² ,villages Some Levites who had previously³⁶ .Lod, and Ono the Valley of Craftsmen³⁵ ,Neballat the land that had belonged to the old tribe of in went and settled Judah the territory of lived in .Benjamin

from Babylonia the priests and Levites who returned the names of These are¹ 12

The priests .the Supreme Priest with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and with Joshua ,Shecaniah, Rehum³ ,Amariah, Malluk, Hattush² ,included Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra Shemaiah, and⁶ ,Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah⁵ ,Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah⁴ ,Meremoth .Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, and Jedaiah⁷ ,Joiarib, Jedaiah was All those men were leaders of the priests, their associates, during the time when Joshua .the Supreme Priest

included Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and who returned The Levites⁸ .God to thank the people in singing songs Mattaniah. Mattaniah and his associates led opposite them during the worship services stood Their associates Bakkukiah and Unni⁹ .was the father of Joiakim the Supreme Priest Joshua¹⁰ .and led a choir that sang responses Joiada was the¹¹ .Joiakim was the father of Eliashib. Eliashib was the father of Joiada .father of Jonathan. Jonathan was the father of Jaddua

.these priests were the leaders of their clans ,the Supreme Priest When Joiakim was¹² Meraiah was the leader of the clan of Seraiah. Hananiah was the leader of the clan of .of Ezra the leader of the clan Meshullam was¹³ .Jeremiah .of Amariah the leader of the clan Jehohanan was of the leader of the clan of Malluchi. Joseph was the leader of the clan Jonathan was¹⁴ the leader of the of Harim. Helkai was the leader of the clan Adna was¹⁵ .Shecaniah the of Iddo. Meshullam was the leader of the clan Zechariah was¹⁶ .of Meraioth clan of Abijah. Piltai was the leader of the clan Zichri was¹⁷ .of Ginnethon leader of the clan the leader Shammua was¹⁸ .of Moadiah the clan of Miniamin and the leader of the clan Mattenai¹⁹ .of Shemaiah the leader of the clan of Bilgah. Jehonathan was of the clan Kallai²⁰ .of Jedaiah the leader of the clan of Joiarib. Uzzi was the leader of the clan was .of Sallai leader of the clan was the

of Amok the leader of the clan Eber was
of the leader of the clan of Hilkiah. Nethanel was the leader of the clan Hashabiah was²¹
Jedaiah

the clan leaders of the Levites during the time the names of wrote down Some scribes²²
the They wrote down .Supreme Priests when Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan, and Jaddua were
.the clan leaders of the priests when Darius was king of Persia names of

the clan leaders of the Levites in their record books up the names of recorded Scribes²³
.the Supreme Priest until the time when Johanan the descendant of Eliashib was
who directed Hashabiah, Serebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel were Levite leaders²⁴
The singers praised .directing another choir opposite them stood Their associates .one choir
,with one group facing the other. This was what King David ,to him and gave thanks God
,Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah²⁵ .the man who served God faithfully, had instructed
guard at the storerooms near stood Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were gatekeepers. They
during the time when Joiakim, the son of Jeshua and work They did that²⁶ .the gates
during the time when again They did it .the Supreme Priest grandson of Jozadak, was
.as priest and scribe served as governor and Ezra served Nehemiah

dedicated the wall around Jerusalem, we summoned the Levites from all we When²⁷
We brought them to Jerusalem to assist in dedicating the .living they were where the places
cymbals and harps and accompanied by wall by rejoicing and giving thanks and by singing
.together singing were used to We summoned the Levites who²⁸ .other stringed instruments
They came to Jerusalem from nearby areas where they had settled around the city. They
They also²⁹ .southeast of Jerusalem Netophah the village of also came from places around
Jerusalem, Beth-Gilgal and the areas around Geba and three places northeast of came from
those singers because they had built villages to live in near We summoned .Azmaveth
to The priests and Levites performed rituals to make themselves acceptable³⁰ .Jerusalem
.rituals to purify the other people, the gates, and the wall similar Then they performed .God
to lead Then I gathered the leaders of Judah together on top of the wall. I assigned them³¹
As they .God on top of the wall, thanking around the city two large groups that would march
Hoshaiah and half³² .walked to the right toward the Rubbish Gate faced the city, one group
The people who marched with that³³ .of the leaders of Judah marched behind that group
.Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, and Jeremiah³⁴ ,included Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam group
playing musical also marched with that group Some descendants of the priests³⁵
instruments. They included Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of
of Some associates³⁶ .Mattaniah, the son of Micaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph
,They included Shemaiah, Azarel .marched and played musical instruments also Zechariah

the same kinds Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani. They all were playing had told the ,musical instruments that King David, the man who served God faithfully of in front of this marched Ezra the scribe .Levite musicians to play many years previously

When the people in this group reached the Fountain Gate, they went up the steps³⁷ .group the City of David. Then they went along the the area known as that were in front of them to palace of David, and then to the Water Gate, on royal top of the wall past the location of the

thanking singing and The other group of those who were³⁸ .side of the temple the east marched to the left on top of the wall. I followed them with half of the people. We Yahweh past the we marched From there³⁹ .marched past the Tower of the Ovens to the Broad Wall Ephraim Gate, the Jeshanah Gate, the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel, and the Tower of leads into the Hundred Soldiers to the Sheep Gate. We finished marching near a gate that giving as they were singing and the temple reached Both of the groups⁴⁰ .the temple area I was there with the half of the city officials who .in their places there thanks. They stood ,included the priests Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin My group⁴¹ .had come with me Others⁴² .Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah. All of them were blowing trumpets ,included Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan who were blowing trumpets The⁴³ .Malkijah, Elam, and Ezer. The singers sang with Jezrahiah who was their leader rejoiced because God had made them very all people offered many sacrifices that day. They happy. The women and the children rejoiced along with the men, so the sound of the .celebration in Jerusalem was so loud that people far away could hear it

the appointed men to be in charge of the storerooms. That was where we On that day⁴⁴ brought these The people .kept the money and the food and the grain and the tithes priests things from the fields near the cities into the storerooms for the priests and the Levites, as Judah did all this because they were so The people of .Moses had commanded in the law The priests and the Levites⁴⁵ .in the temple happy about the priests and the Levites serving did served God by performing rituals to purify things. The singers and the gatekeepers also We did all this⁴⁶ .as King David and his son Solomon had declared they should their work in and Asaph was king because that was how it was in the days of old, when David was There was someone to lead the singers, and they sang songs .charge of the temple musicians the people ,the governor During the time when Zerubbabel was⁴⁷ .to praise and thank God all contributed the food that the singers and temple gatekeepers needed each day. They did of their crops They gave a tenth .the governor the same during the time when Nehemiah was to the priests, who were descendants of of that to the Levites, and the Levites gave a tenth .the first Supreme Priest ,Aaron

that contained the law Then someone read out loud to the people from a scroll¹ 13

said that no one from the Ammonite or law Moses. They learned that the that God gave to

when they gathered together to people Israelite should ever join the people groups Moabite did the people of Ammon and the people of Moab because The law said this² .worship God while they were traveling through their areas after not give any food or water to the Israelites Instead, they paid Balaam to get him to curse the Israelites. But our God .leaving Egypt So the people obeyed that law. They³ .turned that attempt to curse Israel into a blessing .sent away all the people whose ancestors had come from other countries

Priest, Eliashib got control of the storerooms in the Supreme When he became the⁴ to have a large room in which Tobiah He allowed⁵ .temple. Now he was related to Tobiah the priests used to store supplies. These included the grain offerings and the incense, the had God .equipment for the temple, and the tithes of grain and wine and olive oil these to the Levites, the singers, and the gatekeepers. This the people to bring commanded ,During that time I was not in Jerusalem⁶ .room had also held the offerings for the priests because in the thirty-second year that Artaxerxes was the king of Babylonia, I had gone After I had been there a while, I asked the .to report to the king what I had been doing back .to Jerusalem king to allow me to return

When I arrived in Jerusalem, I discovered the evil thing that Eliashib had done for⁷ .That grieved me very much⁸ .Tobiah by allowing him to use this room in the temple area the Then I commanded⁹ .I threw everything that belonged to Tobiah out of that room the ordered that room and make it pure again. I also priests to perform a ritual to cleanse put back in that room to be equipment for the temple and the grain offerings and incense .where they belonged

I also learned that the singers and the other Levites who were responsible for the¹⁰ services had left Jerusalem. They had returned to their own fields because the people temple since Tobiah had occupied the ,harvests percent of their 10 had stopped giving them the work of So I rebuked the city officials. I told them, “You have neglected¹¹ .storeroom back to the temple and told them to the Levites and the singers the temple!” Then I brought ,Judah started bringing their tithes of grain the people of Then all¹² .again do their work to be in men I appointed some¹³ .once again storerooms temple wine, and olive oil to the charge of the storerooms. They were Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and Pedaiah the Levite. I also appointed Hanan the son of Zaccur and grandson of Mattaniah to assist knew that they were trustworthy and would everyone because men them. I appointed these .to their associates the offerings fairly distribute

My God, please bless me for this. Yes, bless me for the good things that I have¹⁴ ”!done for your temple and for the temple services

on the Sabbath day **who were working** in Judea **some people** During that time, I saw¹⁵
Some were pressing grapes to make wine. Others were taking their grain and loading it on
wine, baskets of grapes, figs, and many other **bags of** donkeys. Others were also loading
things onto donkeys and bringing them into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. I warned them
the I also saw some people from¹⁶ .**days Sabbath on food to the people of Judea** not to sell
bringing fish and other things into **Jerusalem** Tyre who were living there in **city of**
So I rebuked the Jewish¹⁷ .**Jerusalem to sell to the people of Judah on the Sabbath day**
leading citizens. I said to them, “This is a very evil thing that you are doing! You are
You know that your¹⁸ .**it to be God never wanted** making the Sabbath day into something
bringing great trouble to **by** our nation **punished** ancestors did these same things, and God
for the Sabbath day. You are going to cause **the laws** you too are breaking **now** this city! But
”!even more **He will punish us .again** Israel **the nation of** to be angry with **God**

to shut the doors of the gates of the city when it **the gatekeepers** So I commanded¹⁹
started to get dark on Friday evening. I commanded them not to open the gates until
so they would make sure that Saturday evening. I also stationed some of my men at the gates
One²⁰ .on the Sabbath day ,**the city in between those times** no one brought things to sell into
or two times traders and merchants selling all kinds of things camped outside the city on
I²¹ .**something the next day to sell** They were hoping .**before the Sabbath day** the night
warned them. I said to them, “It is useless for you to camp here outside the walls on Friday
night. If you do this again, I will arrest you by force!” After that, they did not come on
.Sabbath days

take purify themselves and then **perform a ritual to** I also commanded the Levites to²²
to guard the city gates. I wanted them to ensure that Sabbath days were kept **up stations**
.by not allowing merchants to enter the city on that holy day holy

My God, please bless me for doing this too! And be kind to me, because your kindness“
”.is so great

During that time, I also learned that many of the Jewish men had married women²³
So half of²⁴ .**people groups** Ashdod, and from the Ammonite and Moabite **the city of** from
their children spoke a foreign language, and they did not know how to speak Hebrew. They
asked So I rebuked those men. I²⁵ .**parent spoke** foreign **their** spoke whatever language
I pulled out their hair. Then I forced .**with my fists** to curse them. I struck some of them **God**
them to make a solemn promise, knowing that God was listening. I made them promise that
again allow their daughters to marry foreign men. I also made them **never** they would
You“ ,I said to them²⁶ .promise that they and their sons would not marry foreign women
marrying foreign women who know that Solomon, the king of Israel, sinned as a result of
You know that he was greater than any of the kings of other nations. God !**worshiped idols**

Israel. But his foreign wives **the people of** loved him, and God set him as the king over all to hear this about you! You have married foreign **I am grieved**²⁷ !caused even him to sin
”!You have committed a great sin against our God **.who worship idols** wives

A man who was a son of Joiada and a grandson of Eliashib the Supreme Priest had²⁸
Sanballat the Horonite. So I forced this man to leave **our enemy** married the daughter of
.Jerusalem

the **They have broken** .have brought shame to the priesthood **men** My God, these“²⁹
”!covenant of the priesthood and of the Levites. Punish them as they deserve
that came from other nations and religions. I **the priests** I took away everything from³⁰
what **so they would know** also established regulations for the priests and for the Levites
for the people to bring their **arranged** also I³¹ .work each of them was supposed to do
and to bring the first part of what **,to burn on the altar** offerings of wood at the set times
.of each crop during the year they harvested

”**.for doing them** and bless me **,have done all these things** My God, please consider that I“