Nehemiah – World English Bible (WEB)

1 Now it came to pass in the month Chislev, in the twenty[a] first year, as I
was in the palace of Shushan,
2 that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with men from Judah. I asked them
concerning the Jews that escaped, who had survived the captivity, and
concerning Jerusalem.
3 They said to me, "The remnant there in the province who survived the
captivity are in great trouble and reproach. The walls of Jerusalem are
broken down, and its gates are burned with fire."
4 When I heard these words, I sat down and wept, and lamented many days;
and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven,
5 and said, "I beseech you, Yahweh, God of heaven, the great and terrible
God, who keeps covenant and mercy for those who love him and keep his
commandments:
6 let your ear now be attentive, and your eyes open, that you may listen to
the prayer of your servant, which I pray before you now, day and night, for
the children of Israel your servants, while I confess the sins of the children
of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Both I and my father's house
have sinned.
7 We have dealt very corruptly against you, and have not kept the
commandments, the statutes, and the ordinances which you commanded
your servant Moses.
8 Remember, I beseech you, the word which you commanded your servant
Moses, saying, 'If you trespass, I will scatter you abroad among the
peoples;
9 but if you return to me, and keep my commandments, and do them, though
your outcast ones were in the uttermost part of the heavens, yet will I gather
them from there, and will bring them to the place that I have chosen to
cause my name to dwell there.'
10 Now these are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed
by your great power, and by your strong hand.
11 I beseech you, Lord, let your ear now be attentive to the prayer of your
servant, and to the prayer of your servants who desire to fear your name;
and prosper your servant today, and grant him favor before this man."
Now I was the cupbearer to the king.

2 In the month Nisan, in the twenty[a] first year of King Artaxerxes, when
there was wine before him, I took up the wine, and gave it to the king.
Now I had not been sad before him.
2 The king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick?
This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very afraid.
3 I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should my face not be
sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies desolate, and its
gates are consumed with fire?"
4 Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God
of heaven.
5 I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found
favor before you, I request that you send me to Judah, to the city of my
fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it."
6 The king said to me, (the queen also sitting beside him) "How long will
your journey be, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send
me, when I had given him a time.
7 Moreover I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given to
me to the governors beyond the River, that they may let me pass through
until I come to Judah;
8 and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me
timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress which belongs to the
house, and for the city wall, and for the house that I will enter into." The
king granted them to me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.
9 Then I came to the governors beyond the River, and gave the king's
letters to them. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and
horsemen.
10 When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite,
heard of it, it displeased them greatly that there had come a man to seek
the prosperity of the children of Israel.
11 So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days.
12 Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no man what
my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with
me, except the animal I rode upon.
13 I went out by the Valley Gate, even toward the Jackal Spring, and to the
Dung Gate, and I viewed the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down,
and its gates were consumed with fire.
14 Then I went on to the Fountain Gate, and to the King's Pool; but there
was no place for the animal that was under me to pass.
15 Then I went up in the night by the brook, and viewed the walls, and I
turned back, and came by the Valley Gate, and so returned.
16 The officials didn't know where I went, or what I did; neither had I yet
told the Jews, the priests, the officials, the officers, and the others who
were doing the work.
17 Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies
desolate, and its gates are consumed with fire. Come, let us build the wall
of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach."
18 Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me, and
also the words the king had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let us arise and
build." So they strengthened their hands for good.
19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite,
and Geshem the Arabian, heard of it, they laughed at us, and despised us,
and said, "What is this thing you are doing? Will you rebel against the
king?"
20 Then I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven, he will
prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build. But you have no
portion, nor right, nor memorial in Jerusalem."

3 Then Eliashib the high priest arose with his brothers the priests, and they
built the Sheep Gate. They consecrated it, and set up its doors. They
consecrated it as far as the Tower of Hananel, and as far as the Tower of
Hammeah.
2 Next to him the men of Jericho built. Next to them Zaccur, the son of
Imri, built.
3 The sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate. They laid its beams, and set
up its doors, its bolts, and its bars.
4 Next to them Meremoth, the son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, made
repairs. Next to them Meshullam, the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabel,
made repairs. Next to them Zadok, the son of Baana, made repairs.
5 Next to them the Tekoites made repairs; but their nobles put not their
necks to the work of their lord.
6 Moreover Jehoiada, the son of Paseah, and Meshullam, the son of
Besodeiah, repaired the Old Gate. They laid its beams, and set up its doors,
its bolts, and its bars.
7 Next to them Melatiah the Gibeonite, and Jadon the Meronothite, the men
of Gibeon and of Mizpah, made repairs, for the seat of the governor
beyond the River.
8 Next to him Uzziel, the son of Harhaiah, of the goldsmiths, made repairs.
Next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs, and they
fortified Jerusalem as far as the broad wall.
9 Next to them Rephaiah, the son of Hur, the ruler of half the district of
Jerusalem, made repairs.
10 Next to them Jedaiah, the son of Harumaph, made repairs opposite his
house. Next to him Hattush, the son of Hashabneiah, made repairs.
11 Malchiah, the son of Harim, and Hasshub, the son of Pahath-Moab,
made repairs for another portion, and the furnace of the towers.
12 Next to him Shallum, the son of Hallohesh, the ruler of half the district of
Jerusalem, made repairs, he and his daughters.
13 Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah made repairs. They built the Valley
Gate, and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and a thousand cubits of
the wall, as far as the Dung Gate.
14 But Malchiah, the son of Rechab, the ruler of the district of Beth-Haccerem,
made repairs. He built it, and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars.
15 But Shallum, the son of Col-Hozeh, the ruler of the district of Mizpah,
made repairs. He built it, and covered it, and set up its doors, its bolts, and
its bars, and the wall of the Pool of Shelah by the King's Garden, even to
the steps that go down from the City of David.
16 After him Nehemiah, the son of Azbuk, the ruler of half the district of
Beth-Zur, made repairs, as far as the place opposite the tombs of David,
and as far as the Pool that was made, and as far as the House of the
Mighty.
17 After him the Levites, under Rehum, the son of Bani, made repairs. Next
to him Hashabiah, the ruler of half the district of Keilah, made repairs for
his district.
18 After him their brothers, under Bavvai, the son of Henadad, the ruler of
half the district of Keilah, made repairs.
19 Next to him Ezer, the son of Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah, made repairs
another portion, opposite the ascent to the armory at the buttress.
20 After him Baruch, the son of Zabbai, made repairs another portion, from
the buttress to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.
21 After him Meremoth, the son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, made repairs
another portion, from the door of the house of Eliashib even to the end of
the house of Eliashib.
22 After him the priests, the men of the Plain, made repairs.
23 After him Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs opposite their house.
After him Azariah, the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, made repairs
beside his house.
24 After him Binnui, the son of Henadad, made repairs another portion,
from the house of Azariah even to the buttress, and to the corner.
25 Palal, the son of Uzai, made repairs opposite the buttress, and the
tower which stands out from the upper house of the king, by the court of
the prison. After him Pedaiah, the son of Parosh,
26 made repairs. The Nethinim dwelling in Ophel made repairs as far as
opposite the Water Gate toward the east, and the tower which stands out.
27 After them the Tekoites made repairs another portion, opposite the great
tower which stands out, even to the wall of Ophel.
28 From the Horse Gate the priests made repairs, each opposite his house.
29 After them Zadok, the son of Immer, made repairs opposite his house.
After him Shemaiah, the son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the East Gate,
made repairs.
30 After him Hananiah, the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of
Zalaph, made repairs another portion. After him Meshullam, the son of
Berechiah, made repairs opposite his chamber.
31 After him Malchiah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the
place of the Nethinim, and of the merchants, opposite the Gate of Muhkad,
even to the upper room of the corner.
32 And between the upper room of the corner and the Sheep Gate the
goldsmiths and the merchants made repairs.

4 But when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry,
and was very indignant, and mocked the Jews.
2 He spoke before his brothers and the army of Samaria, and said, "What
are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it to us? Will they sacrifice?
Will they finish in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of
rubbish, seeing they are burned?"
3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, "Even what they are
building, if a fox goes up, he will even break down their stone wall."
4 Hear, our God, for we are despised! Turn back their reproach on their
head, and give them for a spoil in a land of captivity!
5 Don't cover their iniquity, and let their sin not be blotted out from your
presence; for they provoked you to anger before the builders.
6 So we built the wall; and all the wall was joined together to half its height;
for the people had a mind to work.
7 But when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites,
and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were healed, and that
the breaches began to be stopped, they were very angry,
8 and all conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem, and to
hinder it.
9 But we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a
watch against them day and night.
10 Then Judah said, "The strength of the bearers of burdens is failing, and
there is much rubbish; we are not able to build the wall."
11 Our adversaries said, "They will not know, neither shall they see, until we
come in the midst of them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease."
12 Then it came to pass that when the Jews who dwelt by them came, they
told us ten times from all the places where you shall return to us, they
would be upon us.
13 Therefore I placed in the lowest parts of the place behind the wall, and
on the open places, I even placed the people according to their families
with their swords, their spears, and their bows.
14 I looked, and I arose, and said to the nobles, and to the officers, and to
the others who were doing the work, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember
the Lord, who is great and terrible, and fight for your brothers, your sons,
your daughters, your wives, and your houses."
15 It came to pass when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and
God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the
wall, each to his work.
16 From that time forward, half of my servants worked at the work, and
half of them held the spears, the shields, the bows, and the armor; and the
officers were behind all the house of Judah.
17 Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, took
whatever they carried with one hand doing the work, and with the other
hand holding a weapon.
18 For the builders, each had his sword girded by his side, and so built.
But he who sounded the trumpet was by me.
19 I said to the nobles, and to the officers, and to the others who were
doing the work, "The work is great and extensive, and we are separated
on the wall, far from one another.
20 In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, gather yourselves
there to us. Our God will fight for us."
21 So we made our prayer to our God, and we set a watch against them
day and night because of them.
22 At that time I also said to the people, "Let every man with his servant
lodge within Jerusalem, that they may be a guard for us by night, and
labor by day."
23 So neither I, nor our brothers, nor our servants, nor the men of the
guard who followed me, none of us put off our clothes, each put them off
for washing.

5 Now there was a great cry of the people and their wives against their
brothers, the Jews.
2 There were those who said, "We, our sons, and our daughters are many.
We must get grain, that we may eat and live."
3 There were those who said, "We must mortgage our fields, our vineyards,
and our houses, that we may get grain because of the famine."
4 There were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's
tribute, upon our fields and our vineyards.
5 Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children are as their
children; and behold, we bring our sons and our daughters into bondage,
and some of our daughters are brought into bondage already; and it is
neither in our power that our fields and our vineyards belong to others."
6 I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words.
7 Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles and the officers,
and said to them, "You exact interest, each from your brothers." I held a
great assembly against them.
8 I said to them, "We, according to our ability, have redeemed our brothers,
the Jews, who were sold to the nations; and will you even sell your
brothers? Shall they be sold to us?" Then they were silent, and didn't find
anything to answer.
9 Also I said, "The thing that you do is not good. Should you not walk in the
fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations our enemies?
10 I also, my brothers, and my servants, are lending them money and
grain. Let us leave off this interest.
11 Restore to them, even today, their fields, their vineyards, their olive
groves, their houses, and the interest of the money, of the grain, of the
wine, and of the oil that you exact from them."
12 Then they said, "We will restore, and will require nothing from them;
we will do as you say." Then I called the priests, and made them swear
according to this promise.
13 Also I shook my lap, and said, "So God shake out every man from his
house, and from his labor, who performs not this promise, even thus be he
shaken out, and emptied." All the assembly said, "Amen!" and praised
Yahweh. The people did according to this promise.
14 Moreover from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the
land of Judah, from the twenty[a] first year even to the thirty[b] second year
of King Artaxerxes, twelve years, I and my brothers have not eaten the
bread of the governor.
15 But the former governors who were before me laid burdens on the
people, and took from them for food and wine, besides forty shekels of
silver; even their servants bore rule over the people. But so didn't I, because
of the fear of God.
16 Also I continued in the work of this wall, and we didn't buy any land;
and all my servants were gathered there to the work.
17 Moreover there were at my table, of the Jews and the officials, one
hundred and fifty men, besides those who came to us from the nations
which are around us.
18 Now that which was prepared for me daily was one ox, six choice sheep,
and birds were prepared for me, and once in ten days all sorts of wine in
abundance; yet for all this I didn't require the bread of the governor, for the
bondage was heavy upon this people.
19 Remember me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for
this people.

6 Now it came to pass when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the
Arabian, and our enemies heard that I had built the wall, and there was no
breach left in it, (though at that time I had not set up the doors in the
gates,)
2 that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come, let us meet
together in the villages in the plain of Ono." But they thought to do me
evil.
3 So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work, so I
cannot come down. Why should the work cease, while I leave it, and come
down to you?"
4 Yet they sent to me four times in this matter, and I answered them
according to the same matter.
5 Then Sanballat sent his servant to me in the same matter the fifth time
with an open letter in his hand.
6 In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Gashmu says it,
that you and the Jews think of rebelling; for which cause you build the
wall, that you may be their king, according to these words.
7 And you have also appointed prophets to preach of you at Jerusalem,
saying, 'There is a king in Judah.' Now shall it be reported to the king
according to these words. Come now, therefore, let us take counsel
together."
8 Then I sent to him, saying, "There are no such things as you say, but you
invent them out of your heart."
9 For they all were trying to make us afraid, saying, "Their hands will be
weakened from the work, that it be not done." Now therefore, O God,
strengthen my hands.
10 Then I came to the house of Shemaiah, the son of Delaiah, the son of
Mehetabeel, who was shut up; and he said, "Let us meet together in the
house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple;
for they will come to slay you; yes, in the night will they come to slay you."
11 But I said, "Should such a man as I flee? And who is there that, being
as I am, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in."
12 And behold, I perceived that God had not sent him; but he pronounced
this prophecy against me; for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.
13 For this cause he was hired, that I should be afraid, and do so, and
sin, that they might have a bad report, that they might reproach me.
14 Remember, my God, Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their
works, and also the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets who
would have put me in fear.
15 So the wall was finished in the twenty[a] fifth day of the month Elul, in
fifty[b] two days.
16 It came to pass when our enemies heard of it, and all the nations that
were around us saw it, they were very discouraged in their eyes; for they
perceived that this work was made by our God.
17 Also in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and
those of Tobiah came to them.
18 For there were many in Judah sworn to him, because he was the son-in-
law of Shecaniah, the son of Arah; and his son Jehohanan had married the
daughter of Meshullam, the son of Berechiah.
19 Also they spoke of his good deeds before me, and reported my words
to him. Tobiah sent letters to make me afraid.

7 Now it came to pass when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors,
and the porters, and the singers, and the Levites were appointed,
2 that I commanded my brother Hanani, and Hananiah, the ruler of the
fortress, over Jerusalem, for he was a faithful man, and feared God above
many,
3 that I said to them, "Let the gates of Jerusalem not be opened until the
sun is hot; and while they are still standing, let them shut the doors, and
bar them. Appoint guards of the people of Jerusalem, each in his watch,
and each to be opposite his house."
4 Now the city was wide and large, but there were few people in it, and
houses were not built.
5 And my God put into my heart to gather together the nobles, and the
officers, and the people, that they might be enrolled by genealogies. I
found the book of the genealogy of those who came up at the first, and
found therein written,
6 These are the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of
the exiles, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away,
and came again to Jerusalem and to Judah, every one to his city;
7 who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah,
Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah. The
number of the men of the people of Israel:
8 The sons of Parosh, two thousand one hundred and seventy-two.
9 The sons of Shephatiah, three hundred and seventy-two.
10 The sons of Arah, six hundred and fifty-two.
11 The sons of Pahath-Moab, of the sons of Jeshua and Joab, two
thousand eight hundred and eighteen.
12 The sons of Elam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four.
13 The sons of Zattu, eight hundred and forty-five.
14 The sons of Zaccai, seven hundred and sixty.
15 The sons of Bani, six hundred and forty-eight.
16 The sons of Bebai, six hundred and twenty-eight.
17 The sons of Azgad, two thousand three hundred and twenty-two.
18 The sons of Adonikam, six hundred and sixty-seven.
19 The sons of Bigvai, two thousand sixty-seven.
20 The sons of Adin, six hundred and fifty-five.
21 The sons of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety-eight.
22 The sons of Hashum, three hundred and twenty-eight.
23 The sons of Bezai, three hundred and twenty-four.
24 The sons of Hariph, one hundred and twelve.
25 The sons of Gibeon, ninety-five.
26 The men of Bethlehem and Netophah, one hundred and eighty-eight.
27 The men of Anathoth, one hundred and twenty-eight.
28 The men of Beth-Azmaveth, forty-two.
29 The men of Kiriath-Jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred and
forty-three.
30 The men of Ramah and Geba, six hundred and twenty-one.
31 The men of Michmas, one hundred and twenty-two.
32 The men of Bethel and Ai, one hundred and twenty-three.
33 The men of the other Nebo, fifty-two.
34 The sons of the other Elam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four.
35 The sons of Harim, three hundred and twenty.
36 The sons of Jericho, three hundred and forty-five.
37 The sons of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred and twenty-one.
38 The sons of Senaah, three thousand nine hundred and thirty.
39 The priests: the sons of Jedaiah of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred
and seventy-three.
40 The sons of Immer, one thousand fifty-two.
41 The sons of Pashhur, one thousand two hundred and forty-seven.
42 The sons of Harim, one thousand seventeen.
43 The Levites: the sons of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodevah,
seventy-four.
44 The singers: the sons of Asaph, one hundred and forty-eight.
45 The porters: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon,
the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, the sons of Shobai, one hundred and
thirty-eight.
46 The Nethinim: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of
Tabbaoth,
47 the sons of Keros, the sons of Sia, the sons of Padon,
48 the sons of Lebana, the sons of Hagaba, the sons of Shalmai,
49 the sons of Hanan, the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar,
50 the sons of Reaiah, the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda,
51 the sons of Gazzam, the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah,
52 the sons of Besai, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephishesim,
53 the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur,
54 the sons of Bazlith, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha,
55 the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Tamah,
56 the sons of Neziah, the sons of Hatipha.
57 The sons of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Sofereth,
the sons of Perida,
58 the sons of Jaala, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel,
59 the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth-
Hazzebaim, the sons of Amon.
60 All the Nethinim, and the sons of Solomon's servants, were three
hundred and ninety-two.
61 These were those who went up from Tel-Melah, Tel-Harsha, Kerub,
Addon, and Immer, but they could not show their father's house, nor their
seed, whether they were of Israel:
62 the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, six
hundred and forty-two.
63 Of the priests: the sons of Hobaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, the sons of
Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and
was called by their name.
64 These sought their registration among those who were enrolled by
genealogies, but they were not found; therefore were they as polluted
from the priesthood.
65 The governor said to them that they should not eat of the most holy
things, until there should stand up a priest with Urim and Thummim.
66 The whole assembly together was four thousand three hundred and
sixty,
67 besides their servants and their maidens, of whom there were seven
thousand three hundred and thirty-seven; and they had two hundred and
forty-five singing men and singing women.
68 Their horses were seven hundred and thirty-six; their mules, two
hundred and forty-five;
69 their camels, four hundred and thirty-five; six thousand seven
hundred and twenty donkeys.
70 Some of the heads of the fathers' houses gave to the work. The
governor gave to the treasury a thousand darics of gold, fifty basins,
five hundred and thirty priestly garments.
71 Some of the heads of the fathers' houses gave to the treasury of the
work twenty thousand darics of gold, and two thousand two hundred
minas of silver.
72 That which the rest of the people gave was twenty thousand darics of
gold, and two thousand minas of silver, and sixty-seven priestly garments.
73 So the priests, and the Levites, and the porters, and the singers, and
some of the people, and the Nethinim, and all Israel, dwelt in their cities.
When the seventh month came, the Israelites were in their cities.

8 All the people gathered themselves together as one man into the
square that was before the Water Gate; and they spoke to Ezra the scribe
to bring the book of the Law of Moses, which Yahweh had commanded
Israel.
2 So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and
women, and all who could hear with understanding, on the first day of the
seventh month.
3 He read therein before the square that was before the Water Gate from
the morning even to the middle of the day, in the presence of the men and
the women, and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people
were attentive to the book of the Law.
4 Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform which they had made for the
purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah,
and Maaseiah on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, Mishael,
Malchiah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, Meshullam.
5 Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; for he was above all
the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.
6 Ezra blessed Yahweh, the great God. All the people answered, "Amen,
Amen," with their hands lifted up; and they bowed their heads, and worship
Yahweh with their faces to the ground.
7 Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah,
Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, caused
the people to understand the Law; and the people were in their place.
8 They read in the book, in the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the
sense, and caused them to understand the reading.
9 Nehemiah, the governor, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites
who taught the people, said to all the people, "This day is holy to Yahweh
your God; don't mourn, nor weep." For all the people wept, when they
heard the words of the Law.
10 Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet,
and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is
holy to our Lord; and don't be grieved; for the joy of Yahweh is your
strength."
11 So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is
holy; neither be grieved."
12 All the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions,
and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that
were declared to them.
13 On the second day the heads of the fathers' houses of all the people,
the priests, and the Levites, were gathered to Ezra the scribe, even to
understand the words of the Law.
14 They found written in the Law which Yahweh had commanded by
Moses, that the Israelites should live in booths in the festival of the seventh
month,
15 and that they should publish and proclaim throughout all their cities,
and in Jerusalem, saying, "Go forth to the mountain, and bring olive
branches, and branches of wild olive, and myrtle branches, and palm
branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written."
16 So the people went forth, and brought them, and made booths for
themselves, each upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the
courts of the house of God, and in the square of the Water Gate, and in the
square of the Gate of Ephraim.
17 All the assembly of those who had come back from the captivity made
booths, and dwelt in the booths; for since the days of Jeshua, the son of
Nun, even to that day, the children of Israel had not done so. There was
very great joy.
18 Also day by day, from the first day even to the last day, he read in the
book of the Law of God. They celebrated the festival seven days; and on
the eighth day, according to the ordinance, there was a solemn assembly.

9 Now in the twenty[a] fourth day of this month the Israelites were
assembled with fasting, and with sackcloth, and earth upon them.
2 The seed of Israel separated themselves from all the foreigners, and
stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers.
3 They stood in their place, and read in the book of the Law of Yahweh
their God one third part of the day; and another third part they confessed,
and worshiped Yahweh their God.
4 Then stood upon the Levites, Jeshua, and Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah,
Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, Chenani, and cried with a loud voice to Yahweh
their God.
5 Then the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah,
Hodiah, Shebaniah, Pethahiah, said, "Stand up and bless Yahweh your
God forever and ever: and blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted
above all blessing and praise.
6 You, even you, are Yahweh alone; you have made the heavens, the
heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all things that are
upon it, the seas and all that is in them, and you preserve them all alive;
and the host of heaven worships you.
7 You are Yahweh, the God who chose Abram, and brought him out of Ur
of the Chaldeans, and gave him the name Abraham;
8 and found his heart faithful before you, and made a covenant with him
to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites,
the Jebusites, and the Girgashites, to give it, I say, to his seed, and have
performed your words; for you are righteous.
9 And you saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heard their cry by
the Red Sea,
10 and showed signs and wonders against Pharaoh, against all his
servants, against all the people of his land; for you knew that they dealt
proudly against them. So you made yourself a name, as it is this day.
11 And you divided the sea before them, so they went through the midst of
the sea on the dry land; and their persecutors you threw into the deep,
as a stone into the mighty waters.
12 Moreover you led them by the cloud by day, and by the pillar of fire by
night, to give them light on the way in which they should go.
13 You came down also upon Mount Sinai, and spoke with them from
heaven, and gave them right judgments, true laws, good statutes and
commandments,
14 and made known to them your holy Sabbath, and commanded them
commandments, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses your servant.
15 And gave them bread from heaven for their hunger, and brought water
out of the rock for their thirst, and told them that they should go in to
possess the land which you had lifted your hand to give them.
16 But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their neck, and
hearkened not to your commandments,
17 and refused to hear, and were not mindful of your wonders that you
performed among them, and hardened their neck, and in their rebellion
appointed a captain to return to their bondage. But you are a God ready to
forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and
forsook them not.
18 Yea, when they had made for themselves a molten calf, and said, 'This
is your God that brought you up out of Egypt,' and had wrought great
provocations,
19 yet you in your manifold mercies forsook them not in the wilderness.
The pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the
way, nor the pillar of fire by night, to show them light, and the way in which
they should go.
20 You gave also your good spirit to instruct them, and withheld not your
manna from their mouth, and gave them water for their thirst.
21 Yea, forty years you sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked
nothing; their garments didn't wear out, and their feet didn't swell.
22 Moreover you gave them kingdoms and nations, and divided them into
portions; so they took possession of the land of Sihon, even the land of the
king of Heshbon, and the land of Og king of Bashan.
23 You also multiplied their children as the stars of heaven, and brought
them into the land concerning which you had spoken to their fathers, that
they should go in to possess it.
24 So the children went in and possessed the land, and you subdued
before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gave them into
their hand, with their kings, and the people of the land, that they might do
with them as they would.
25 They took strong cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses full of
all good things, hewn cisterns, vineyards, olive groves, and fruit trees in
abundance; so they ate, and were filled, and made fat, and delighted
themselves in your great goodness.
26 Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against you, and
cast your law behind their backs, and killed your prophets who testified
against them to bring them back to you, and they wrought great
provocations.
27 Therefore you delivered them into the hand of their enemies, who
oppressed them; and in the time of their trouble, when they cried to you,
you heard from heaven; and according to your manifold mercies you gave
them saviors who saved them from the hand of their enemies.
28 But as soon as they had rest, they again did evil before you, so you left
them in the hand of their enemies, so they had dominion over them; yet
when they returned, and cried to you, you heard from heaven; and many
times you delivered them according to your mercies,
29 and testified against them to bring them back to your law. Yet they
dealt proudly, and hearkened not to your commandments, but sinned
against your judgments, which if a man do, he shall live by them, and
withdrew the shoulder, and hardened their neck, and hearkened not.
30 Yet many years you forbore them, and testified against them by your
spirit in your prophets; yet they would not give ear; therefore you gave them
into the hand of the peoples of the land.
31 Nevertheless in your manifold mercies you didn't make an end of them,
nor forsake them; for you are a God gracious and merciful.
32 Now, therefore, our God, the great God, the mighty, and the terrible,
who keeps covenant and mercy, let not all the trouble seem little before you
that has come on us, our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our
fathers, and on all your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria even
to this day.
33 Yet you are just in all that is brought upon us; for you have dealt
faithfully, but we have done wrongly.
34 Our kings, our princes, our priests, our fathers, have not kept your law,
nor hearkened to your commandments and your testimonies, with which you
testified against them.
35 For they have not served you in their kingdom, and in your great
goodness that you gave them, and in the large and fat land that you gave
before them, neither turned they from their evil deeds.
36 Behold, we are servants this day, and the land that you gave our fathers
to eat of its fruit and its goodness, behold, we are servants in it.
37 It yields much increase to the kings whom you have set over us because
of our sins; also they have dominion over our bodies, and our cattle, at their
pleasure, and we are in great distress.
38 Because of all this we make a firm covenant, and write it; and our
princes, our Levites, our priests, seal to it.

10 Now those who sealed were Nehemiah, the governor, the son of
Hachaliah, and Zedekiah,
2 Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah,
3 Pashhur, Amariah, Malchiah,
4 Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch,
5 Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah,
6 Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch,
7 Meshullam, Abiah, Mijamin,
8 Maaziah, Bilgai, Shemaiah: these were the priests.
9 And the Levites: Jeshua, the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad,
Kadmiel;
10 and their brothers, Shebaniah, Hodiah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan,
11 Mica, Rehob, Hashabiah,
12 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah,
13 Hodiah, Bani, Beninu.
14 The heads of the people: Parosh, Pahath-Moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani,
15 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai,
16 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin,
17 Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur,
18 Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai,
19 Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai,
20 Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir,
21 Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua,
22 Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah,
23 Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub,
24 Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek,
25 Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah,
26 and Ahiah, Hanan, Anan,
27 Malluch, Harim, Baanah.
28 Now the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the porters, the
singers, the Nethinim, and all those who had separated themselves from
the peoples of the land to the law of God, their wives, their sons, and their
daughters, every one who had knowledge, and understanding,
29 they joined with their brothers, their nobles, and entered into a curse,
and into an oath, to walk in God's law, which was given by Moses the
servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of Yahweh
our Lord, and his ordinances and his statutes;
30 and that we will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land, nor
take their daughters for our sons;
31 and if the peoples of the land bring wares or any grain on the Sabbath
day to sell, that we will not buy of them on the Sabbath, or on the holy day;
and that we will leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt.
32 Also we made ordinances for us, to charge ourselves yearly with the
third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God,
33 for the showbread, and for the continual grain offering, and for the
continual burnt offering, of the Sabbaths, of the new moons, for the
appointed times, and for the holy things, and for the sin offerings to make
atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God.
34 We cast the lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for the
wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, according to our
families, at the appointed times year by year, to burn on the altar of
Yahweh our God, as it is written in the law;
35 and to bring the first fruits of our land, and the first fruits of all fruit of
all trees, year by year, to the house of Yahweh;
36 also the firstborn of our sons, and of our cattle, as it is written in the
law, and the firstlings of our herds and of our flocks, to bring to the house
of our God, to the priests that minister in the house of our God;
37 and that we should bring the first of our dough, and our offerings, and
the fruit of all trees, of the wine and of the oil, to the priests, to the
chambers of the house of our God; and the tithes of our land to the Levites,
that the Levites should take the tithes in all the cities of our tillage.
38 And the priest, the son of Aaron, should be with the Levites when the
Levites take tithes; and the Levites should bring up the tithe of the tithes
to the house of our God, to the chambers, into the treasury house.
39 For the children of Israel and the children of Levi should bring the
offering of the grain, of the new wine, and of the oil, to the chambers, where
are the vessels of the sanctuary, and the priests that minister, and the
porters, and the singers; and we will not forsake the house of our God.

11 Now the rulers of the people dwelt in Jerusalem; the rest of the people
also cast lots, to bring one of ten to dwell in Jerusalem the holy city, and
nine parts in the other cities.
2 And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered themselves to
dwell in Jerusalem.
3 Now these are the heads of the province who dwelt in Jerusalem; but in
the cities of Judah dwelt every one in his possession in their cities, Israel,
the priests, and the Levites, and the Nethinim, and the children of the
servants of Solomon.
4 And in Jerusalem dwelt some of the children of Judah, and of the children
of Benjamin. Of the children of Judah: Athaiah, the son of Uzziah, the son
of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalalel,
of the children of Perez;
5 and Maaseiah, the son of Baruch, the son of Col-Hozeh, the son of
Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, the
son of the Shelanite.
6 All the children of Perez who dwelt in Jerusalem were four hundred and
sixty-eight valiant men.
7 And these are the children of Benjamin: Sallu, the son of Meshullam, the
son of Joed, the son of Pedaiah, the son of Kolaiah, the son of Maaseiah,
the son of Ithiel, the son of Jeshaiah.
8 And after him Gabbai, Sallai, nine hundred and twenty-eight.
9 Joel, the son of Zichri, was their overseer; and Judah, the son of
Hassenuah, was second over the city.
10 Of the priests: Jedaiah, the son of Joiarib, Jachin,
11 Seraiah, the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the
son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, the ruler of the house of God,
12 and their brothers that did the work of the house, eight hundred and
twenty-two; and Adaiah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Pelaliah, the son of
Amzi, the son of Zechariah, the son of Pashhur, the son of Malchiah,
13 and his brothers, heads of the fathers' houses, two hundred and forty-
two; and Amashsai, the son of Azarel, the son of Ahzai, the son of Meshillemoth,
the son of Immer,
14 and their brothers, valiant men, one hundred and twenty-eight; and
their overseer was Zabdiel, the son of one of the great men.