

We will now begin the fourteenth lecture on the Book of Ezra and the Book of Nehemiah. /Today we will begin with Nehemiah chapter 12. /There are several important points in the passages, /but the giving of offerings is the most important. /Singing songs with brothers is also important, /as is written in verse 8.

/It was recorded in the Bible for that. /In verse 24, the people prescribed by David the man of God stood and praised in thanksgiving. /In verse 25, it was important that the gatekeepers guarded the storerooms at the gates.

/There are many names recorded in verse 26, and it introduces three important people. /First, Joiakim son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak. /Second, Nehemiah the governor. /Third, Ezra the priest and scribe. /The people returned from captivity with these three men.

/Verses 1-26 introduce the returnees. /Joiakim was the son of Jeshua, the high priest during the time of Zerubbabel. /In the times of these three men, there were many people with good faith. /Mentors are very important.

/Leaders who properly teach the Bible are very important. /Here it records the names of the forefathers of faith. /It records how the people kept their faith in each generation.

/Through this, they hoped to restore the faith of believers in future generations. /Psalm 112:6 says, /the name of a righteous man will be remembered forever. /The names of the righteous will be remembered forever. /It is important that we live in righteousness.

/We must follow the example of the faithful. /We must model ourselves after God. /It is important that we follow the footsteps of the fathers of faith in the Bible.

/We must model ourselves after the fathers of faith, and we must keep our faith. /Hebrews 13:7 says, /imitate the faith of those who properly teach the Bible. /Then we will be fruitful.

/We must meet good mentors. /When we follow their examples, our faith will grow. /Of course, we must first strive to become like Jesus. /It is also important that we follow the example of our fathers of faith.

/In verses 1-11 /are the priests and Levites who returned with Zerubbabel and Jeshua. /Their names are recorded in Ezra 2:36-42. /The number of priests who returned was 4,289.

/The number of Levites who returned was 342. /The names of those who returned was recorded. /It was recorded again in Nehemiah 7:39-45. /Therefore, return from captivity was very important. /The people's names were recorded.

/The number of priests who returned is the same in the Book of Ezra and in the Book of Nehemiah. /However, the number of Levites differ. /Nehemiah 12:1-11. /In verses 1-7

/are the priests who returned. /Whose names are recorded in verse 1?

/They are the names of those who returned with Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and with Jeshua the high priest. /Those who returned with the leaders had great faith. /There were priests and Levites who returned.

/They were all recorded in the passage. /Now, let's look at this from a different perspective. /This shows that there was a large number of people who did not return from captivity. /Each person had the choice to return or remain in exile.

/Yet, the Bible records the names of those who returned from captivity. /At the time, it was difficult for people to return to their homelands. /They were used to their lifestyles in Babylon because they were there for seventy years. /Life was stable in Babylon.

/It was difficult for the people to give all that up and return. /Even if they were to safely return to Jerusalem, their futures would have been uncertain. /Hence, those who gave everything up and returned were honorable people.

/The names of those who returned are recorded in detail. /Their numbers and /their lineages /were all recorded. /Anything we do in faith will be recorded.

/There was a characteristic of those who returned to Jerusalem with the leaders of faith. / They were people who made great decisions. /They did not miss the opportunity that was given them. /They discerned God's will.

/They made sacrifices in their hearts. /They were worthy believers. /They gained eternal blessings. /They were faithful to their positions.

/They knew what they had to do. /They did not go because others went. /They did not do this because others did this. /Each believer walks alone in faith.

/We walk alone, but we go together because we are going in the same direction. /Everyone walks alone in faith. /We too must return. /In Ruth 1:14, /Ruth became the ancestor of David. /Ruth did not return to unbelief.

/Ruth followed her mother-in-law and her name was recorded in the genealogy. /Ruth became the ancestor of Christ. /It is important that we follow in faith. /We must stick to it. /We must have faith to return from captivity.

/Who do we chase after? /We chase after Jesus Christ. /Hebrews 13:20 says, /"our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep." /What kind of shepherds are Jesus' sheep?

/Jesus is the great Shepherd. /He is a great Shepherd. /We are the sheep who follow Him. /We must follow the Lord wherever He leads us. /We must follow the Lord's guidance /according to His speed /and direction.

/1 Peter 2:25 says, /“you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” /We have hope because we have Jesus. /Even if the things of the world disappear, /we must follow the Lord, our eternal Shepherd and Overseer.

/We must receive supervision, /direction, /and guidance from Jesus, and follow Him. /1 Peter 2:21 says, /“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.”

/Jesus showed us an example. /We must only follow Jesus. /It is easy to follow the footsteps of the person in front of us /on snowy days. /In that way, we must follow the footsteps of the Lord.

/This is the path that we must walk down. /This shows that we believe in Jesus. /John 10:11 says that Jesus is the good shepherd. /The Lord is our Shepherd. /The Lord knows our circumstances and situations.

/God leads us to the place of grace and blessings. /Hence, it is important that we chase after the Lord.

/In verses 1-7 are the names of 22 priests who returned. /We must be a part of those who returned. /The 22 people who returned are in verse 1. /They were leaders. /They were believers with mature faith. /1 Corinthians 3:1-3. /Hebrews 5:12.

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/We must be mature before others. /Age is not important. /We must be believers who are respected by others in all ways.

/We must be appropriate leaders. /We must be leaders who can differentiate the right path from the wrong path.

/In verses 8-11 /are the names of the Levites who returned. /What does verse 8 say that Mattaniah did? /He was in charge of the songs of thanksgiving. /Ezra 2:41. /Nehemiah 10:9. /They were people who sealed the covenant.

/They sealed the covenant. /Mattaniah was in charge of the songs of thanksgiving. /It is valuable to be able to praise God. /God is worthy of all praise. /No matter what difficulties we face, /or what diseases we face, /all of God’s works are worthy to be praised.

/This was also God’s purpose for creating man. /Isaiah 43:21 says, /“the people I formed for myself /that they may proclaim my praise.”

/Singing praises is our full-time job. /How are we to praise God? /Ephesians 5:19 says, /“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. /Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.”

/How must we live to sing praises? /Psalm 33:1 says, /it is fitting for the upright to praise God. /We will sing praises when we live uprightly.

/Until when must we sing praises? /Psalm 104:33 says, /“I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praises to my God as long as I live.” /Hebrews 13:15.

/Verse 9 tells us about /Mattaniah’s two brothers. /They were Bakbukiah and Unni. /They stood opposite them in the services. /This means that they praised God opposite of them. /Nehemiah 11:17.

/They all praised God in their places. /There were two groups that sang praises. /Praises is a part of our life.

/In verses 10-11 /is the genealogy of the high priest. /Jeshua was the high priest during the time of Zerubbabel. /Jeshua’s son was named Joiakim. /Joiakim’s son was named Eliashib. /Eliashib was the high priest at the time of Ezra’s return. /Ezra 10:6.

/However, Nehemiah 13:4 /records Eliashib’s mistake. /It says that Eliashib secretly communicated with Tobiah. /Tobiah interfered with the construction of the Jerusalem wall. /The Bible is accurate. /Eliashib did not act in faith.

/Eliashib’s son was named Joiada. /Joiada was the high priest in Nehemiah’s time. /His faults are recorded in Nehemiah 13:28. /He was son-in-law to Sanballat. /Sanballat was the man who interfered with the construction of the Jerusalem wall.

/Joiada did not keep his faith. /Joiada communicated secretly with Tobiah. /This is recorded in detail in the Bible. /Joiada’s son Jonathan is recorded in the Bible.

/Historian Josephus claimed that he killed his brother. /In verse 11, Jaddua was high priest at the time Alexander the Great entered Jerusalem. /This is all recorded in the Bible.

/Therefore, we must live upright lives /before God and before others.

/In verses 12-22 /are the names of the heads of the priestly families in the time of Joiakim. /The names of men in verses 12-22 lived in Joiakim’s time. /Joiakim was Jeshua’s son. /There were many good priests at that time.

/Read verse 26. /They served in the days of Joiakim son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor and of Ezra the priest and scribe.

/There are three leaders here. /Joiakim, Nehemiah, and Ezra were all men of good faith. /Many good heads of families were brought up from under these leaders. /Here we can see how important leaders are. /Good believers with good faith are brought up under the guidance of good leaders.

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/Verses 22-26 /introduce the famous Levites of Nehemiah's time. /It was valuable to be able to serve in the house of God. /It is valuable for us to be able to serve God and praise God.

/Johanan was a priest around 400 B.C. /He was a priest in the time of the last prophet of the Old Testament, Malachi.

/Read verse 24. /And the leaders of the Levites were Hashabiah, Sherebiah, Jeshua son of Kadmiel, and their associates, who stood opposite them to give praise and thanksgiving, one section responding to the other, as prescribed by David the man of God.

/The people gave praise and thanksgiving, as prescribed by David and man of God. /Who prescribed this? /David the man of God prescribed this.

/We too must be men of God. /Moses was also a man of God. /Deuteronomy 33:1. /Moses blessed the Israelites before he died.

/Anyone who blesses others is worthy. /Therefore, the lives of men of God are worthy lives.

/Samuel too was a man of God. /1 Samuel 9:8. /Elijah and Elisha were men of God. /1 Kings 17:18. /2 Kings 4:7.

/How must we live? /It is honorable for believers to live by men of God. /What did Paul tell Timothy? /He said in 1 Timothy 6:11, "You, man of God." /We must live distinguished lives as men of God.

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/In verses 27-37, /the believers celebrated with a dedication of the wall of Jerusalem. /The Israelites rebuilt the Jerusalem wall with God's great help. /Hence, they dedicated the wall to God.

/The Levites were brought from where they lived, and they sang songs of thanksgiving at the dedication. /The singers came from the region around Jerusalem.

/They gave thanks for God allowing them to complete construction of the city in the midst of difficulties. /They also dedicated the city to God.

/In verse 30, /the Levites and the priests purified themselves ceremonially for the dedication. /They also purified the people, the gates and the wall. /God is holy, and therefore, everything we offer to God must be purified.

/It is likely that they purified themselves with water. /We believers must repent of our sins before we worship before God. /We must receive Christ in our hearts and become clean in heart and body, and then we must worship God.

/The dedication is written about in detail in verses 31-37. /Nehemiah went up to the top of the city wall with Ezra, the priests, the leaders, and all who sang songs of thanksgiving. /The people went up to the top of the wall for the dedication.

/In verse 31, the choir was split into two groups. /One was sent to the top of the wall to the right toward the Dung Gate. /Ezra led this group. /Those with musical instruments prescribed by David the man of God followed and sang songs of thanksgiving.

/In verse 38, the other group went the opposite direction and sang songs of thanksgiving. /They went past the Tower of the Ovens and stopped at the Gate of the Guard.

/The singers loudly praised God. /In verse 43, the women and children also rejoiced.

/In verses 44-47, /the contributions, first fruits, and tithes to God were given to those who worked in the temple. /Nehemiah put the contributions, first fruits, and tithes in the storerooms. /Then people were appointed to guard the storerooms.

/Now that the temple and city wall was built, the people rejoiced in giving tithes and contributions. /In verse 47, the Israelites set aside portions for the priests and the Levites.

/In verse 45, the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and they worked even more diligently to serve God. /The singers and gatekeepers are purified, and they obeyed. /Thus, the people contributed daily portions for the singers and gatekeepers.

/The people built the Jerusalem city wall. /Then the people joyfully gave contributions and tithes. /They also purified themselves and were obedient. /This was a graceful time. / God was with them, and God blessed them.

/Here we will conclude the fourteenth lecture on Ezra and Nehemiah. /Thank you.