

The joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off

Nehemiah 12:1-47

*As we arrive in Nehemiah chapter 12, much has happened among the exiles who returned from the Babylonian Captivity a hundred years before. Through the years, there have been hardships and heartbreaks along the way. There were threats and famine from the outside. There were pressures from the inside from faltering faith, selfishness, ceasing the restoration efforts and brothers mistreating brothers. However, much has been accomplished. The temple has been rebuilt, the sacrifices instituted, the wall built, the gates hung, the covenant signed, and the city re-populated. Now, a month after the wall was finished, it is dedicated, and “the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off” (v43).*

I. Joyful remembrance of the Levites and Priests over the past 100 years, v1-26

II. Joyful dedication of the wall with singing and music, 12:27-43

III. Joyful obedience in providing for the worship of God, 12:44-47

Applications:

How do we apply this to our church? What kind of church is this?

**Words for children to listen for**

Singing

Rejoiced

Joy of Jerusalem heard from afar off

Priests

Levites

Singers

Gladness

Dedicated

Thanksgiving Choir

Great sacrifices

Great joy

Bible saturated

Musical

Thankful

Pure church

On top of the walls