

October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier  
**Nehemiah 11:1-23** – “Division & Unity of Labor”

- A. Christians should not despise such records as in today’s text because God keeps a list of His elect whose names are written in the book of life (**Rev 20:11-15**).
- B. The book of Nehemiah is filled with many blessings for God’s people.
- C. I want us to look back at **Neh 7:3f** regarding Nehemiah’s effort to provide security to this great city.
- D. The OT people at this time was the God’s church.

God has ordained a division & unity of labor in the church.	I. THE SELECTION PROCESS II. THE DIVISION & UNITY OF LABOR
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- I. There was a **SELECTION PROCESS** to determine who would & who would not go to live in Jerusalem.
- A. Didn’t everyone want to go & dwell in the great city of Jerusalem? The answer is no.
  - 1. There were some who had farmlands outside of the city.
  - 2. I am sure others did not want to put their life at risk by having a rotation schedule on top of the wall to guard it.
  - 3. Some suspect that dwelling in Jerusalem may have been more expensive than living in the countryside.
  - 4. Surely others did not want to move away from their family in the country.
- B. For such various reasons, it was only fair to have a selection process in place that was impartial.
  - 1. The selection process could not show favoritism for the rich or affluent.
  - 2. Casting lots was the way that Nehemiah selected. → **vv1-2**.
    - a. Surely the governor’s wisdom here was found upon such Scripture as **Prov. 18:18**:  
**“The cast lot puts an end to strive & decides between the mighty ones.”**
    - b. This practice should not be used especially in deciding essential Spiritual matters.
      - 1) **Eph 5:17** **“Do not be foolish but, understand what the will of the Lord is”**
      - 2) **Rom 12:2** tells you how you are to present yourselves as a living & holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, “
      - 3) Don’t flip a coin or roll dice to determine where you go to church. Instead, prayerfully use the Word of God to guide you.
- C. Others did not wait around for the casting of lots; they volunteered. → **v2**
  - 1. We would say that such persons were patriots. They loved Jerusalem & had a passion to defend their beloved city.
  - 2. Even for those not guarding on the wall needed support of all kinds.
- D. Look at our first glimpse of who went back to live in Jerusalem. → **v3** This is a glimpse of a beautiful reunion- after a long division of the kingdom. The 12 tribes intermingled

II. THE DIVISION & UNITY OF LABOR – This included people of every class & occupation. Those mentioned in today’s text included: heads or rulers of the provinces, priests, the Levites & their overseers, temple servants, the valiant warriors & their overseers, guards, gatekeepers, singers, & song leaders. There were those involved in the worship inside the temple and those who were **“in charge of the outside work of the house of God” (v16)**.

A. It took even more than all of these mentioned in this text for Jerusalem to function. There was a division of labor. The unity was their goal of making Jerusalem magnificent for the glory of God.

B. The NT tells us that the church needs everyone to exercise their gifts for the blessing of the church.

→ Turn to **Ep4:10f.**

1. The end goal is not the ordained ministry (**v11**); it is the entire body of Christ. → **vv12-13**
2. It is not just the ordained ministry called to work for the sake of the kingdom.
  - a. All the saints are to be equipped **“for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.”**
  - b. Ministers aren’t the only ones who should tell others about the person & work of Jesus.

C. In leading in prayer. I am not the only one who should be praying. **v17** mentions **“Mattaniah the son of Mica, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, who was the leader in beginning the thanksgiving at prayer.”**

D. Perhaps you may have wondered why King Artaxerxes gave a command regarding the song leaders in Jerusalem. The end of **v22** says it was **“from the sons of Asaph, who were the singers for the service of the house of God. <sup>23</sup> For there was a commandment from the king concerning them & a firm regulation for the song leaders day by day.”**

1. What did the ruler of the Persian empire care about the worship in the temple of Jerusalem anyway? → Turn to **Ezra 6:8-10... vv22-26**
2. Both King Darius & King Artaxerxes sent the people of Israel & Judah back to their homeland & to paid lots of money to rebuild the temple & then the gates & walls of Jerusalem. Why?
  - a. I used to think the main reason was to so that they would be content tax payers.
  - b. Both kings did all this because both knew of the power of the God of the Jews.  
→ Turn to **Ezra 6:8-10... 22-26**

E. This re-establishment of Jerusalem with her walls has a great importance in the fulfilling of prophecy leading to the coming of Jesus Christ. → Turn to **Daniel 9:24f.**

Review, further application, & conclusion: