

August 21st, 2022AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier

Nehemiah 7:5-66 – “God’s Registration”

- A. In modern life there are numerous instances wherein we must go through a registration process.
 - 1. To register someone is to enroll them; a registration list is an enrollment list or census.
 - 2. In **v5** mentions that **“the officials & the people [were] to be enrolled by genealogies.”**
In **v64**, some of the priestly order **“searched among their ancestral registration, but it could not be located.”**
- C. God’s good hand of favor was also upon Nehemiah to grant him 12 years of leave from serving as cupbearer to King Artaxerxes.
- D. It makes sense for us to find this compiled this list of enrolled or registered Jews who returned from captivity here in chapter 7. They were given a “breather” after the walls were repaired, the new gates setup, & guards were assigned to the wall.

Ensure that your name is recorded in God’s registration	I. THE PURPOSE OF NEHEMIAH’S REGISTRATION II. GOD’S REGISTRATION OF THE ELECT
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I. THE PURPOSE OF NEHEMIAH’S REGISTRATION

- A. Key to understand Nehemiah’s motivation make census is found in **v4**: **“Now the city was large & spacious, but the people in it were few & the houses were not built.”**
 - 1. There was a whole lot of wall to defend yet not enough defenders to stand guard upon it.
 - 2. According to **v6**, the registration list of Jews included **“the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, & who returned to Jerusalem & Judah, each to his city.”**
 - a. This rather large list included people living inside of Jerusalem yet a great many in other cities of the region of Judah.
 - b. This registration in was the 1st necessary step of Nehemiah’s plan to bring in many more of God’s people into Jerusalem to help defend it.
 - c. This registration list was made in chapter 7, yet the fulfillment of the plan does not come until **Neh 11:1-2** → Look there.
- B. David was rebuked & the people were judged by a plague because David took a census or registration of all the Israelites (**1 Chron 21:1-17**).
 - 1. Was this done out of pride or presumption? Was this David trusting in numbers rather than in God? The author of Chronicles did not tell us.
 - 2. In **v5** of today’s text, Nehemiah recorded, **“Then my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles, the officials & the people to be enrolled by genealogies.”**
- C. Even though God favored & motivated Nehemiah’s work here, there were imperfections in this registration, yet this was not his fault. → Look at **vv64-65**.
- D. The registration given of God’s covenant people in the region of Judah included a 42,360 persons (**v66**). With the servants & male/female singers, the total was 49,942. This was a large portion of God’s chosen, covenant people
 - 1. Those on this registered list included those who possessed a promise of salvation, yet being on the list did not equal having eternal life.
 - 2. According to **Rom 9:6**: **“For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; ⁷ nor are they all children because they are Abraham’s descendants.”**

II. GOD'S REGISTRATION OF THE ELECT

- A. God has a perfect registration or record of all those who are not merely children of promise, but true children of God.
1. → **Rev. 3:1-6**
 - a. Some in Sardis were members of the church yet were still dead in sin (**v1**). They need to waken to true faith in Christ.
 - b. The evidence of true saving faith was not just receiving & hearing the word of God but keeping it as evidenced by repentance (**v3**).
 - c. The true, elect saints in Sardis did not soil their garments with wickedness.
 2. → **Rev. 20:11-15**
 - a. On this great day of judgment, there will not be an opportunity for a final confession.
 - b. If a person dies in unbelief, rejecting Christ, His gospel, & His church— that will be written in the books.
 - c. If a man or woman dies in heinous, unrepentant sin; that will be written in the books.
- B. There is nothing more important in this life than ensuring your name is written in God's book of life.
1. **Rev. 20:12** says **“the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.”**
 - a. This may seem like a passage that teaches works-righteousness.
 - b. The one deed that will decide our fate is whether or not we truly embraced the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior.
 2. As you may know, talk can be cheap. People can profess Christ with their lips yet have their hearts far from Him.¹
 - a. Turn to **Mat 7:15-23** for a challenging passage that requires self-examination.
 - b. During the judgment, the deeds by which we are judged are evidential fruit that indicate that we are truly God's children— showing we were good trees rooted in Christ.
- C. Nehemiah's registration a list of very many strange names, yet God motivated him to make this census.
1. All of these people are listed here because God wanted us to remember them.
 2. In a much greater fashion, if you are written in God's book of life because God remembers you. People may not remember your name; but God does. God's people are never forgotten.

Review, further application, & conclusion:

In **Luke 10:20**, Jesus said, **“do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”**

¹ **Mat 15:8-9.**