

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE



- We could transplant Nehemiah from the Bible right into modern day Israel
- Place, issues, troubles, reasons for the issues and troubles remain essentially the same
- Explanation for the situation goes back to an earlier time, the time of Abraham

THE COVENANT OF ABRAHAM

- God selected a person to start a new people set apart for Himself
- This new people would be used to bring redemption to humanity
- Genesis 12:1 – 3
- An irony: through division, election, and separation an eventual unity would occur
- Seed of Abraham Ministries



THE DIVINE MAGNA CARTA

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

EVERYONE
ELSE
(GENTILES)

HEBREWS

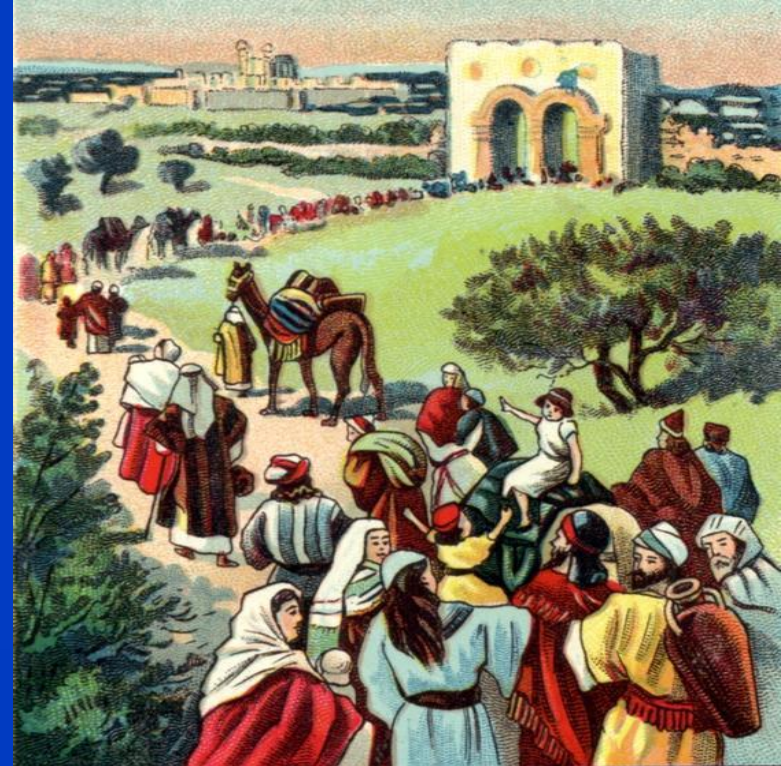
- Abraham is to separate from his country, his father's family, his extended family
- He is the physical earthly separation that represents the invisible spiritual separation
- This separation led to a unique Hebrew culture and lifestyle
- Hebrew ways intolerant of other gods and cultures
- Other cultures find the Hebrew ways intolerable
- Separation, and enmity, assured !!



TORAH

CONTINUING THE PROMISE

- Why so important for Jews to return from Babylon?
- Ezra then sent to re-establish Torah
- Next Nehemiah sent to rebuild Jerusalem and the wall
- Nehemiah would NOT include the gentiles at any level.....
Jews only !
- Same battle today in modern Israel for the continuance of the Abrahamic Covenant



CREATING A FENCE

- Due to the unique Hebrew culture, Jews thought it impossible for gentiles who wanted to join to do anything but renounce everything from their past and adopt “Judaism”
- Paul fought to say that although through faith in Yeshua gentiles joined the Hebrew covenants, they didn't have to adopt the entire Hebrew culture



ATTEMPTS TO SUBVERT FAIL



- After Sanvallat, Toviyah, and Geshem failed to get Nehemiah to Ono, they tried a new tactic
- In the 5th message they tried to start a rumor that Nehemiah declared himself king and was rebelling
- Next they used a false prophet name Shemaiah to lure Nehemiah into fleeing, or into entering God's Temple
- Nehemiah refused all, because he is the example of a Godly leader



Nehemiah
rebuilding for God's glory

WALL COMPLETED IN 52 DAYS !!

- It was still at only half-height
- Finished on the 25th of Elul
- Completed in only 6 months from the time Nehemiah was given the OK to build
- Nehemiah deserves credit, but the self-sacrificing workers provide inspiration
- A community-wide, cause-driven effort
- The enemies were depressed and lost self-esteem
- Main concern was that it was the GOD of the Jews who won out over the pagans' gods



INSIDERS WORKING AGAINST NEHEMIAH



- Vs. 17, more info about what happened during the wall building process
- Jewish informers helped Sanvallat and Toviyah
- Toviyah had Jewish relatives
- Toviyah manipulated his friends and relatives
- Leaders must see through people who seem OK, but want to subvert and cause division
- A common social dynamic
- Nothing says that Nehemiah was a popular or well-liked leader

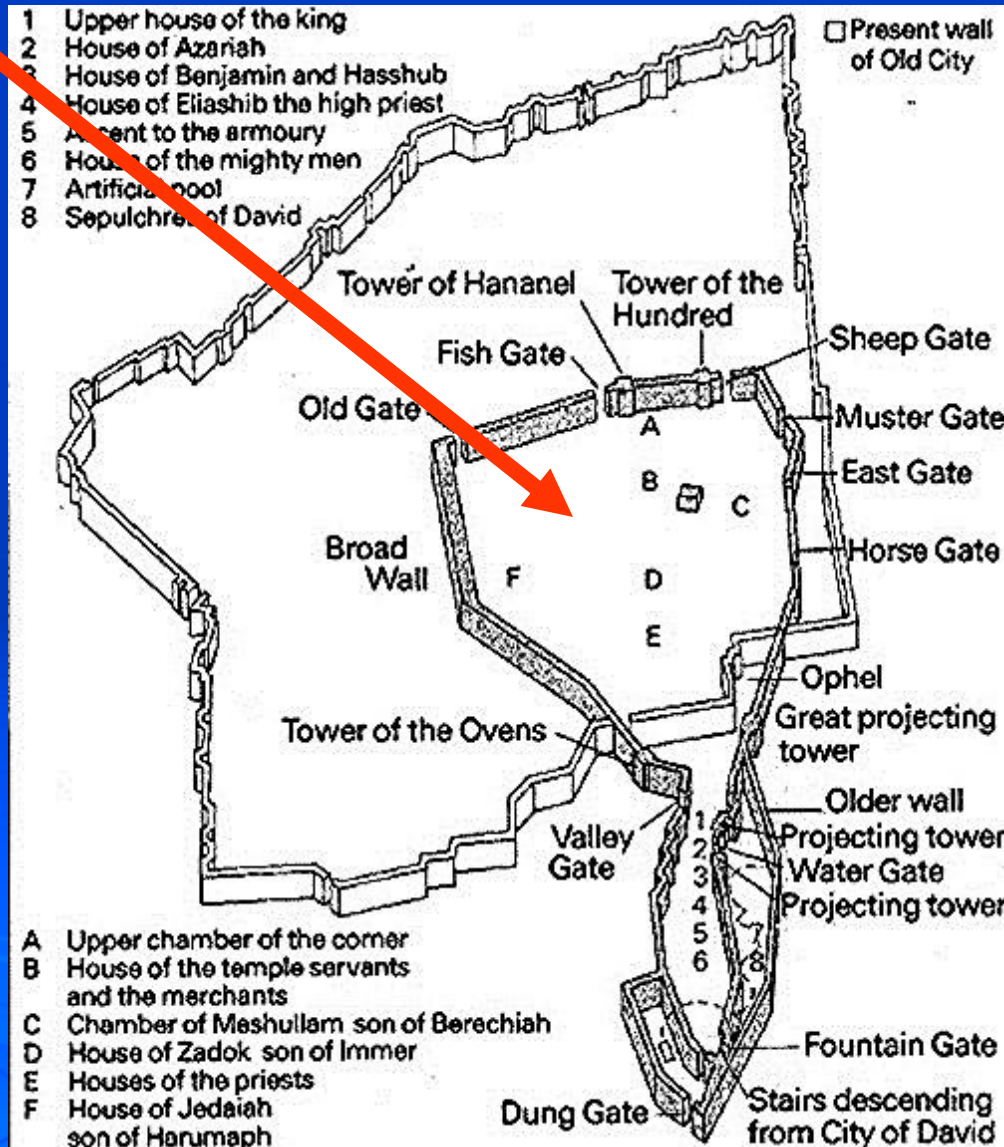
NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 7: WATCHMEN ON THE WALLS



- Many weeks have passed since the end of Ch. 6
- The enemies are still lurking around
- A rotation of guards and watchmen posted
- Temple workers augmented the laymen because there were too few to do the job
- Hanani and Hananyah assigned as administrators of Jerusalem
- Gates were to be closed at midday because Guards tended to nap and relax at that time!

JERUSALEM LIGHTLY POPULATED

- Nehemiah's Jerusalem was much smaller than before the exile
- Main advantage of living in a city was the wall for protection
- Most Jews lived in the countryside as farmers
- How to get Jews to come and populate Jerusalem?
- God inspired Nehemiah with an idea



NEW JERUSALEM, THE BRIDE



“Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

Rev. 21:9

- A list of families and genealogies is found, it is the list of Ezra from Ezra chapter 2 Not identical but close
- H.G.M. Williamson “...*Christ’s bride, the New Jerusalem...*”
- Rev.19:7 – 8 Rev.21:1 -2 Rev.21:9 – 10
- Organic connection between Israel, Jerusalem, the Redeemed, and Yeshua’s Bride