

# Nehemiah 7:1-73

1. Nehemiah 7:6-73 is a cut-and-paste from Ezra 2:1-70
2. This chapter picks up where 6:1 (the walls and gate stone work is complete) and 6:15 (the doors in the gate were hung and the bars to secure the doors were in place) declare the wall is finished and secure.
3. The vast amount of people lived in their cities and avoided living in Jerusalem.

7:1 – Now when the wall had been built and I had set up the doors, and the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed,

1. Completed tasks identified by Nehemiah:
  - a. Wall built
  - b. Doors set
  - c. Gatekeepers appointed
    - i. These guarded the entrances to the temple
    - ii. Other guards would be appointed to the city gates.
  - d. Singers appointed
  - e. Levites appointed

7:2 – I gave my brother Hanani and Hananiah the governor of the castle charge over Jerusalem, for he was a more faithful and God-fearing man than many.

3588 [e]	3389 [e]	5921 [e]	1002 [e]	8269 [e]	2608 [e]	853 [e]	251 [e]	2607 [e]	853 [e]	6680 [e]
kī-	ye·rū·šā·lim;	'al-	hab·bī·rah	šār	hā·nan·yah	wə'et-	'a·hī,	hā·nā·nī	'et-	wā'ā·šaw·weh
כִּי	ירושלם	על	הבירה	שַׂר	הנניה	ואת	אחי	תנני	את	ואצוה
for	Jerusalem	of	of the citadel	the leader	Hananiah	and	my brother	to Hanani	I gave	That the charge
Conj	N-proper-fs	Prep	Art   N-fs	N-msc	N-proper-ms	Conj-w   DirObjM	N-msc   1cs	N-proper-ms	DirObjM	Conj-w   V-Piel-ConsecImpf-1cs

**habbirah** - "a castle, palace"

**'a-hi** - first means "brother from same mother"

**sar** - "chieftain, chief, ruler, official, captain, prince"

7227 [e]	430 [e]	853 [e]	3372 [e]	571 [e]	376 [e]	1931 [e]
mé·rab·bīm.	hā'è·lō·hīm	'et-	wə·yā·ré	'è·meṯ	ke'īš	hū
מרבבים	האלהים	את	ורא	אמת	קאיש	הוא
more than many	God	-	and feared	faithful	a man	he [was]
Prep-m   Adj-mp	Art   N-mp	DirObjM	Conj-w   V-Qal-ConjPerf-3ms	N-fs	Prep-k   N-msc	Pro-3ms

1. Hanani, "my brother" (short for Hananiah)
  - a. 445 BC, Nehemiah 1:1-3 -
 

"Now it happened in the month of Chislew, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire."
  - b. This Hanani is Nehemiah's brother.
  - c. The papyrus documents known as the Elephantine papyri from Egypt name a Hananiah who was the head of Jewish affairs in Jerusalem at this exact time.
    - i. The Elephantine Papyri were written over a 100 year period generally from 450-350 BC.
    - ii. The Elephantine Papyri include letters and legal contracts from families and other archive collections.

2. Hananiah, “governor of the castle”

a. “governor” is from *sar* meaning “chief, ruler, official, captain, prince”.

b. He was not the Governor of Judea and he was not the Governor of Jerusalem. He was the Governor of the “castle” or the “fortress” which is most likely on the north wall beside the temple

c. His character qualified him to help Nehemiah.

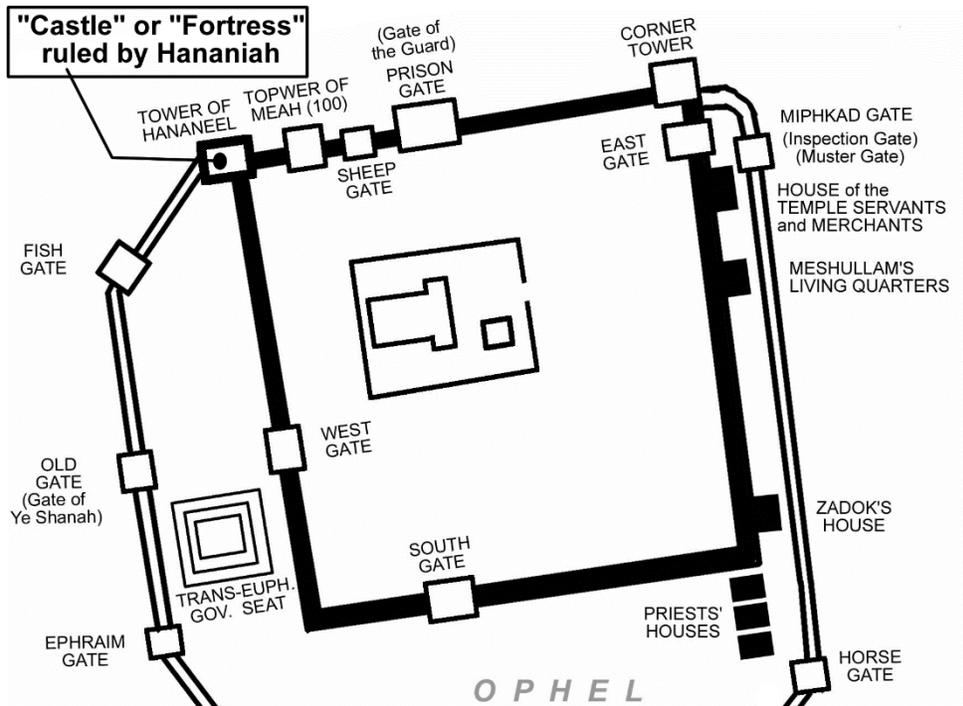
- i. Obviously, it is assumed in the text, Hananiah had the skill to oversee the city fortress
- ii. What was unique about Hananiah and what separated him from other potential leaders was his faithfulness to Nehemiah and God’s plan for the people of Judah.
  1. Other leaders were compromised by the foreign nations (Samaria, Ammon, Arab, Ashdod) and were working to give advantage to the enemies of Judah.
  2. Hananiah “was a more faithful and God-fearing man than many.”
    - a. “faithful” to Nehemiah, the Governor of Judea appointed by Artaxerxes
    - b. “God-fearing” to the LORD who was working his plan in Judea

3. There were two other men that ruled the city of Jerusalem:

- a. Rephaiah – Nehemiah 3:9 – “Next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired.
- b. Shallum – Nehemiah 3:12 – “Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired, he and his daughters.”

4. The leadership was set like this:

- a. Governor of the province of Judah .....Nehemiah
- b. Chief of the Fortress of Jerusalem ..... Hananiah
- c. Rulers of the city of Jerusalem:
  - i. .... Rephaiah
  - ii. .... Shallum



7:3 – And I said to them, “Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot. And while they are still standing guard, let them shut and bar the doors. Appoint guards from among the inhabitants of Jerusalem, some at their guard posts and some in front of their own homes.”

1. These are special precautions for this troubled time.
  - a. Normally gates are closed at night and opened after the sun comes up.
  - b. Nehemiah tightens up the normal routine for this time of danger
  - c. The gates open not at sunrise, but when “the sun is hot”, so later in the morning when everyone was ready and the surrounding area could be checked for safety.
    - i. There was no need to get the gates open for heavy business activity yet.
    - ii. Security was more important than travel and business at this time
  - d. The gates shut before nighttime when it is still daylight and the guard’s alertness is at its peak.
    - i. Shut and Bar the doors of the gates before things slow down for the day
  - e. The guards are not hired staff, but people who live in the city.
    - i. They have:
      1. possessions in the city,
      2. family in the city
      3. own a house in the city.
    - ii. This guard duty is not a national duty.
      1. Make it a personal duty.
      2. If the guards fail, they lose family, possessions and house.
    - iii. If possible, station the guards in front of their own houses.
      1. Their home may have been rebuilt
      2. More likely, the home and inheritance was still in need of repair, but with a wall and protection, it was worth repairing now

**7:4 – The city was wide and large, but the people within it were few, and no houses had been rebuilt.**

<p>1129 [e] be-nū-yim.</p> <p>בְּנוּיִם:</p> <p>[were] rebuilt</p> <p>V-Qal-QalPassPrtcpl-mp</p>	<p>1004 [e] bat-tîm</p> <p>בָּתִּים</p> <p>the houses</p> <p>N-mp</p>	<p>369 [e] we-’ên</p> <p>וְאֵין</p> <p>and not</p> <p>Conj-w   Adv</p>	<p>8432 [e] 4592 [e] be-to-w-kaḥ; me-’at</p> <p>בְּתוֹכָהּ מְעַט</p> <p>in it few</p> <p>Prep-b   N-msc   3fs Adj-ms</p>	<p>5971 [e] we-hā-’am</p> <p>וְהָעָם</p> <p>but the people [were]</p> <p>Conj-w, Art   N-ms</p>	<p>1419 [e] 3027 [e] 7342 [e] u-ge-dō-w-lah, ya-da-yim ra-hā-bat</p> <p>וְגְדוּלָהּ יְדֵימִים רַחְבָּת</p> <p>and spacious large large</p> <p>Conj-w   Adj-fs N-fd Adj-fsc</p> <p>“great” yad = hand yad-im = (plural)</p>	<p>5892 [e] we-hā-’îr</p> <p>וְהָעִיר</p> <p>Now the city [was]</p> <p>Conj-w, Art   N-fs</p>
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1. Compared to the population and the buildings inside the walls, Nehemiah’s city was “wide and large”.
  - a. Literally *rah-bat yadayim ug-dolah* meaning “wide of two hands and large”
  - b. It was small compared to:
    - i. Hezekiah’s city of 700 BC
    - ii. The city that was burned in 586 BC
    - iii. The New Testament city
  - c. But, for this time, this population and the condition it was over the last 142 years and 52+ days ago, this city was a large, empty ghost town.
2. The houses as a whole had not yet been rebuilt since the 586 destruction, even though the people had returned in 538 BC and had been in the land for 94 years (538-444 BC = 94 years)

**7:5 – Then my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles and the officials and the people to be enrolled by genealogy. And I found the book of the genealogy of those who came up at the first, and I found written in it:**

1. The next thing Nehemiah does under the leadership of God is engage the people in the vision of rebuilding and repopulating the abandoned city that now has walls, gates and guards, but still needs rebuilt.
2. Nehemiah sets the stage for the events of chapters 8-10
3. The “Book of the Genealogy” is the recording found in Ezra 2...the people who came up from Babylon. This includes the names of:
  - a. The original group that came with Zerubbabel
  - b. And, maybe also lists names of others who came up later

**7:6 – These were the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of those exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried into exile. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his town.**

**7:7a – They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah.**

1. Nehemiah mentioned here and Mordecai are not the same men of the time period of Nehemiah and Esther. These were men of the same name that helped lead people back to Jerusalem in 539-520 BC.

7:7b-38 – MEN OF ISRAEL BY FAMILY NAME and BY CITY

**The number of the men of the people of Israel:**

FAMILY NAME:

**the sons of Parosh, 2,172.**

**The sons of Shephatiah, 372.**

**The sons of Arah, 652.**

**The sons of Pahath-moab, namely the sons of Jeshua and Joab, 2,818.**

**The sons of Elam, 1,254.**

**The sons of Zattu, 845.**

**The sons of Zaccai, 760.**

**The sons of Binnui, 648.**

**The sons of Bebai, 628.**

**The sons of Azgad, 2,322.**

**The sons of Adonikam, 667.**

**The sons of Bigvai, 2,067.**

**The sons of Adin, 655.**

**The sons of Ater, namely of Hezekiah, 98.**

**The sons of Hashum, 328.**

**The sons of Bezai, 324.**

**The sons of Hariph, 112.**

**The sons of Gibeon, 95.**

CITY OF ORIGIN:

**The men of Bethlehem and Netophah, 188.** (south of Jerusalem)

**The men of Anathoth, 128.** (mile NE of Jerusalem)

**The men of Beth-azmaveth, 42.** (mile NE of Jerusalem)



1. 74 Levites returned
2. When Ezra left Babylon in Ezra 8:15 in 458 BC he had to stop to recruit more Levites.
  - a. The Levites didn't have as nice of a career as a priest
  - b. There may have been fewer Levites deported in 586 because they were poorer and the poor were left in the land
  - c. The Levites may have found better careers in Babylon than serving the priests in Jerusalem and decided to stay there

#### 7:44 – SINGERS

**The singers:**

**the sons of Asaph, 148.**

1. 148 singers returned

#### 7:45 – GATEKEEPERS

**The gatekeepers:**

**the sons of Shallum,**

**the sons of Ater,**

**the sons of Talmon,**

**the sons of Akkub,**

**the sons of Hatita,**

**the sons of Shobai, 138.**

1. 138 Gatekeepers returned

#### 7:46-56 – TEMPLE SERVANTS

**The temple servants:**

**the sons of Ziha,**

**the sons of Hasupha,**

**the sons of Tabbaoth,**

**the sons of Keros,**

**the sons of Sia,**

**the sons of Padon,**

**the sons of Lebana,**

**the sons of Hagaba,**

**the sons of Shalmai,**

**the sons of Hanan,**

**the sons of Giddel,**

**the sons of Gahar,**

**the sons of Reaiah,**

**the sons of Rezin,**

**the sons of Nekoda,**

**the sons of Gazzam,**

**the sons of Uzza,**

**the sons of Paseah,**

**the sons of Besai,**

**the sons of Meunim,**

**the sons of Nephushesim,**

**the sons of Bakbuk,  
the sons of Hakupha,  
the sons of Harhur,  
the sons of Bazlith,  
the sons of Mehida,  
the sons of Harsha,  
the sons of Barkos,  
the sons of Sisera,  
the sons of Temah,  
the sons of Neziah,  
the sons of Hatipha.**

1. "Temple Servants" come from the Hebrew ne-tinim which is the word "Nethinim"
  - a. There are 35 listed in Ezra 2 and 32 here in Nehemiah
  - b. 1 Chronicles 9:2
  - c. Ezra/Nehemiah
  - d. They have a special quarter in Jerusalem (Neh. 3:26, 31 and 11:21)
  - e. They are exempt from taxes (Ezra 7:24)
  - f. They helped rebuild the wall (Neh. 3:26)
  - g. They sign Nehemiah's covenant in Nehemiah 10:29
  - h. The Temple servants and the sons of Solomon's servants together equal 392 men, which is more than the total number of Levites, gatekeepers and singers
    - i. Ezra 2:58 and Nehemiah 7:60 list 392 men from these families
    - ii. Levites 74 + Singers 148 + Gatekeepers 138 = 360 men

#### 7:57-59 – SOLOMON'S SERVANTS

**The sons of Solomon's servants:**

**the sons of Sotai,  
the sons of Sophereth,  
the sons of Perida,  
the sons of Jaala,  
the sons of Darkon,  
the sons of Giddel,  
the sons of Shephatiah,  
the sons of Hattil,  
the sons of Pochereth-hazzebaim,  
the sons of Amon.**

**7:60 – All the temple servants and the sons of Solomon's servants were 392.**

#### 7:61-65 – MEN FROM JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN BABYLON WITH RECORDS

**The following were those who came up from**

**Tel-melah,** (means "mound of salt" and may be the low salt tracts near the Persian Gulf)

**Tel-harsha,** (means "mound of a craftsman")

**Cherub,**

**Addon,** and

**Immer,**

but they could not prove their fathers' houses nor their descent, whether they belonged to Israel:

the sons of Delaiah,  
the sons of Tobiah,  
the sons of Nekoda, 642.

Also, of the priests:

the sons of Hobaiah,  
the sons of Hakkoz,  
the sons of Barzillai (who had taken a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite and was called by their name).

These sought their registration among those enrolled in the genealogies, but it was not found there, so they were excluded from the priesthood as unclean.

The governor told them that they were not to partake of the most holy food until a priest with Urim and Thummim should arise.

#### 7:66-69 – TOTAL NUMBERS

The whole assembly together was 42,360,

besides their male and female servants, of whom there were 7,337.

And they had 245 singers, male and female.

Their horses were 736, their mules 245, 69 their camels 435, and their donkeys 6,720.

#### 7:70-72 – DONATIONS TO THE WORK OF THE TEMPLE (These verses may be the opening of the next chapter and the events there)

Now some of the heads of fathers' houses gave to the work.

The governor gave to the treasury 1,000 darics of gold, 50 basins, 30 priests' garments and 500 minas of silver.

And some of the heads of fathers' houses gave into the treasury of the work 20,000 darics of gold and 2,200 minas of silver.

And what the rest of the people gave was 20,000 darics of gold, 2,000 minas of silver, and 67 priests' garments.

#### 7:73 – SETTLED IN TOWNS AROUND JUDEA BY THE SEVENTH MONTH

So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants, and all Israel, lived in their towns.

And when the seventh month had come, the people of Israel were in their towns.