

Nehemiah 11:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the rulers of the people dwelt at Jerusalem: the rest of the people also cast lots, to bring one of ten to dwell in Jerusalem the holy city, and nine parts to dwell in other cities.

Analysis

And the rulers of the people dwelt at Jerusalem: the rest of the people also cast lots, to bring one of ten to dwell in Jerusalem the holy city, and nine parts to dwell in other cities.

This verse within Nehemiah 11 addresses themes of sacrifice, community building, strategic living. Repopulating Jerusalem required sacrifice—willingness to leave comfortable situations to strengthen the covenant community. This passage demonstrates biblical principles applicable across both testaments—God's sovereignty combined with human responsibility, faith expressed through obedient action, and the necessity of both individual and corporate commitment to covenant faithfulness. Nehemiah models leadership that combines vision, prayer, courage, integrity, and perseverance amid sustained opposition.

Historical Context

Nehemiah's account occurs during Persian imperial dominance (539-331 BC), specifically 445-433 BC under Artaxerxes I. Nehemiah's final reforms address recurring covenant violations, demonstrating the ongoing challenge of maintaining spiritual commitment across generations. The Persian period was crucial transitional time when Jewish identity shifted from monarchical nationalism to Torah-centered covenantal community. Without political independence, the people's cohesion depended on shared scripture, temple worship, and covenant

obedience. This established patterns persisting through the Second Temple period into New Testament times. Understanding this context illuminates Jesus's ministry among a people shaped by these reforms and challenges.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does regular engagement with Scripture transform understanding of God and His will for your life?
2. What specific commitments do you need to make (or renew) regarding Bible reading, worship, and obedience?
3. How can the principles demonstrated in this passage inform your response to current challenges in your life or church?

Interlinear Text

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|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| לָשָׁ בֵּית | שָׂרֵי | הָ עָם | בִּירוּשָׁלַם | וְשָׂא ר | הָ עָם |
| dwelt | And the rulers | of the people | at Jerusalem | the rest | of the people |
| H3427 | H8269 | H5971 | H3389 | H7605 | H5971 |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| לָשָׁ בֵּית | הָ עָשָׂךְ ה | מִן | אֶחָד | לָהֶב יֵאן | גֹּבֵל וְ | הָפּ יִלּוּ |
| dwelt | of ten | one | to bring | lots | also cast | |
| H3427 | H6235 | H4480 | H259 | H935 | H1486 | H5307 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|
| בְּעָרִים: | הֵד וְ | וְ שֵׁע | הַקִּדֵּשׁ | בְּעָרִים: | בִּירוּשָׁלַם |
| city | parts | and nine | the holy | city | at Jerusalem |
| H5892 | H3027 | H8672 | H6944 | H5892 | H3389 |

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 48:2 (Holy): For they call themselves of the holy city, and stay themselves upon the God of Israel; The LORD of hosts is his name.

Isaiah 52:1 (Holy): Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.

Nehemiah 11:18 (Holy): All the Levites in the holy city were two hundred fourscore and four.

Nehemiah 10:34 (Parallel theme): And we cast the lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, after the houses of our fathers, at times appointed year by year, to burn upon the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the law:

Matthew 4:5 (Holy): Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

Matthew 27:53 (Holy): And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.