

# EXILE AND RETURN Lesson 25

## FIRST DAY

**Read Lesson 24 Notes**

## SECOND DAY:

**Read Nehemiah: 6:15-7:3**

### **The Completion of the Wall**

[15] So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. [16] When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

[17] Also, in those days the nobles of Judah were sending many letters to Tobiah, and replies from Tobiah kept coming to them. [18] For many in Judah were under oath to him, since he was son-in-law to Shecaniah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. [19] Moreover, they kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

### **Nehemiah 7**

[7:1] After the wall had been rebuilt and I had set the doors in place, the gatekeepers and the singers and the Levites were appointed. [2] I put in charge of Jerusalem my brother Hanani, along with Hananiah the commander of the citadel, because he was a man of integrity and feared God more than most men do. [3] I said to them, "The gates of Jerusalem are not to be opened until the sun is hot. While the gatekeepers are still on duty, have them shut the doors and bar them. Also appoint residents of Jerusalem as guards, some at their posts and some near their own houses."

### **Question 3b**

**See also Nehemiah 4-5**

## **THIRD Day:**

**Read Nehemiah 7:4-73**

### **The List of the Exiles Who Returned**

[4] Now the city was large and spacious, but there were few people in it, and the houses had not yet been rebuilt. [5] So my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles, the officials and the common people for registration by families. I found the genealogical record of those who had been the first to return. This is what I found written there:

[6] These are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken captive (they returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own town, [7] in company with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum and Baanah):

The list of the men of Israel:

- [8] the descendants of Parosh 2,172
- [9] of Shephatiah 372
- [10] of Arah 652
- [11] of Pahath-Moab (through the line of Jeshua and Joab) 2,818
- [12] of Elam 1,254
- [13] of Zattu 845
- [14] of Zaccai 760
- [15] of Binnui 648
- [16] of Bebai 628
- [17] of Azgad 2,322
- [18] of Adonikam 667
- [19] of Bigvai 2,067
- [20] of Adin 655
- [21] of Ater (through Hezekiah) 98
- [22] of Hashum 328
- [23] of Bezai 324
- [24] of Hariph 112
- [25] of Gibeon 95
- [26] the men of Bethlehem and Netophah 188
- [27] of Anathoth 128
- [28] of Beth Azmaveth 42
- [29] of Kiriath Jearim, Kephirah and Beeroth 743
- [30] of Ramah and Geba 621
- [31] of Micmash 122
- [32] of Bethel and Ai 123
- [33] of the other Nebo 52
- [34] of the other Elam 1,254

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[35] of Harim 320  
[36] of Jericho 345  
[37] of Lod, Hadid and Ono 721  
[38] of Senaah 3,930  
[39] The priests: the descendants of Jedaiah (through the family of Jeshua) 973  
[40] of Immer 1,052  
[41] of Pashhur 1,247  
[42] of Harim 1,017  
[43] The Levites: the descendants of Jeshua (through Kadmiel through the line of Hodaviah) 74  
[44] The singers:  
the descendants of Asaph 148  
[45] The gatekeepers:  
the descendants of  
Shallum, Ater, Talmon, Akkub, Hatita and Shobai 138  
[46] The temple servants: the descendants of  
Ziha, Hasupha, Tabbaoth,  
[47] Keros, Sia, Padon,  
[48] Lebana, Hagaba, Shalmal,  
[49] Hanan, Giddel, Gahar,  
[50] Reaiah, Rezin, Nekoda,  
[51] Gazzam, Uzza, Paseah,  
[52] Besai, Meunim, Nephussim,  
[53] Bakbuk, Hakupha, Harhur,  
[54] Bazluth, Mehida, Harsha,  
[55] Barkos, Sisera, Temah,  
[56] Nezhiah and Hatipha  
[57] The descendants of the servants of Solomon:  
the descendants of Sotai, Sophereth, Perida,  
[58] Jaala, Darkon, Giddel,  
[59] Shephatiah, Hattil,  
Pokereth-Hazzebaim and Amon  
[60] The temple servants and the descendants of the  
servants of Solomon 392  
[61] The following came up from the towns of Tel  
Melah, Tel Harsha, Kerub, Addon and Immer, but  
they could not show that their families were  
descended from Israel:  
[62] the descendants of Delaiah, Tobiah and Nekoda 642  
[63] And from among the priests: the descendants of

Hobaiah, Hakkoz and Barzillai (a man who had  
married a daughter of Barzillai the Gileadite and was  
called by that name).

[64] These searched for their family records, but they  
could not find them and so were excluded from the  
priesthood as unclean. [65] The governor, therefore,  
ordered them not to eat any of the most sacred food  
until there should be a priest ministering with the  
Urim and Thummim.

[66] The whole company numbered 42,360, [67]  
besides their 7,337 menservants and maidservants;  
and they also had 245 men and women singers. [68]  
There were 736 horses, 245 mules, [69] 435 camels  
and 6,720 donkeys.

[70] Some of the heads of the families contributed to  
the work. The governor gave to the treasury 1,000  
drachmas of gold, 50 bowls and 530 garments for  
priests. [71] Some of the heads of the families gave to  
the treasury for the work 20,000 drachmas of gold  
and 2,200 minas of silver. [72] The total given by the  
rest of the people was 20,000 drachmas of gold,  
2,000 minas of silver and 67 garments for priests.

[73] The priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the  
singers and the temple servants, along with certain of  
the people and the rest of the Israelites, settled in  
their own towns.

### **FOURTH DAY**

#### **Read Nehemiah 8:1-12**

##### **Ezra Reads the Law**

When the seventh month came and the Israelites had  
settled in their towns, [8:1] all the people assembled  
as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They  
told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law  
of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for  
Israel.

[2] So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the  
priest brought the Law before the assembly, which  
was made up of men and women and all who were  
able to understand. [3] He read it aloud from  
daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the  
Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and  
others who could understand. And all the people  
listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

[4] Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform  
built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood  
Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and  
Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael,  
Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and  
Meshullam.

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[5] Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. [6] Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

[7] The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodia, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. [8] They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.

[9] Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

[10] Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

[11] The Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for this is a sacred day. Do not grieve.”

[12] Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

### **FIFTH DAY**

#### **Read Nehemiah 8:13-18**

[13] On the second day of the month, the heads of all the families, along with the priests and the Levites, gathered around Ezra the scribe to give attention to the words of the Law. [14] They found written in the Law, which the LORD had commanded through Moses, that the Israelites were to live in booths during the feast of the seventh month [15] and that

they should proclaim this word and spread it throughout their towns and in Jerusalem: “Go out into the hill country and bring back branches from olive and wild olive trees, and from myrtles, palms and shade trees, to make booths”—as it is written.

[16] So the people went out and brought back branches and built themselves booths on their own roofs, in their courtyards, in the courts of the house of God and in the square by the Water Gate and the one by the Gate of Ephraim. [17] The whole company that had returned from exile built booths and lived in them. From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it like this. And their joy was very great.

[18] Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God. They celebrated the feast for seven days, and on the eighth day, in accordance with the regulation, there was an assembly.

#### Question 12b

#### **Leviticus 23:33-44; Feast of Tabernacles**

[33] The LORD said to Moses, [34] “Say to the Israelites: ‘On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the LORD’s Feast of Tabernacles begins, and it lasts for seven days. [35] The first day is a sacred assembly; do no regular work. [36] For seven days present offerings made to the LORD by fire, and on the eighth day hold a sacred assembly and present an offering made to the LORD by fire. It is the closing assembly; do no regular work.

[37] (“These are the LORD’s appointed feasts, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies for bringing offerings made to the LORD by fire—the burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings required for each day. [38] These offerings are in addition to those for the LORD’s Sabbaths and in addition to your gifts and whatever you have vowed and all the freewill offerings you give to the LORD.)

[39] “So beginning with the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have gathered the crops of the land, celebrate the festival to the LORD for seven days; the first day is a day of rest, and the eighth day also is a day of rest. [40] On the first day you are to take choice fruit from the trees, and palm fronds,

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leafy branches and poplars, and rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. [41] Celebrate this as a festival to the LORD for seven days each year. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come; celebrate it in the seventh month. [42] Live in booths for seven days: All native-born Israelites are to live in booths [43] so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in booths when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.”

[44] So Moses announced to the Israelites the appointed feasts of the LORD.

### **SIXTH DAY:**

#### **Review Nehemiah 6:15-8:18**

##### **The Completion of the Wall**

[15] So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. [16] When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

[17] Also, in those days the nobles of Judah were sending many letters to Tobiah, and replies from Tobiah kept coming to them. [18] For many in Judah were under oath to him, since he was son-in-law to Shecaniah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. [19] Moreover, they kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

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##### **The List of the Exiles Who Returned**

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### Nehemiah 8

#### **Ezra Reads the Law**

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[2] So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. [3] He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

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they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

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