

A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building. The archway is made of light-colored stone blocks and is set within a larger wall of similar stone. The ground in front of the arch is covered in rubble, including broken stones and wooden planks. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The text "REBUILDING the GATES" is overlaid on the image in a large, black, serif font. "REBUILDING" is on the top line, "the" is in the middle line, and "GATES" is on the bottom line.

REBUILDING
the
GATES

Rebuilding the Gates

A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined wall. The arch is made of light-colored stone blocks and is set within a larger wall of similar stone. The ground in front of the arch is covered in a large pile of rubble, including broken stones and wooden planks. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an interior or a shaded area.

Neh 6:15

15 So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days.

Building a Kingdom Life

1. The God Factor

Neh 6:15

15 So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. 16 And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God.

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Ps 105:1 - 6

Oh, give thanks to the LORD!

Call upon His name;

Make known His deeds among the peoples!

Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him;

Talk of all His wondrous works!

Glory in His holy name;

Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the Lord

Seek the Lord, and His strength

Seek His face forevermore.

Remember His marvelous works which He has done,

His wonders, and the judgements of His mouth

O seed of Abraham His servant

You children of Jacob, His chosen ones!

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The background image shows a stone archway in a wall, with a large pile of rubble and debris in the foreground. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an ancient or ruined setting.

2. Worship

Neh 7:1 - 2

1 Then it was, when the wall was built and I had hung the doors, when the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed, 2 that I gave the charge of Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the leader of the citadel, for he was a faithful man and feared God more than many.

A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building, with rubble on the ground. The archway is made of light-colored stone blocks and is set within a larger wall of similar stone. The ground in the foreground is covered in broken stones and debris. The overall scene is one of ancient ruins.

Neh 7:73

73 So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the Nethinim, and all Israel dwelt in their cities.

Neh 10:28

Now the rest of the people—the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the Nethinim, and all those who had separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, everyone who had knowledge and understanding—

Neh 11:22 - 23

22 Also the overseer of the Levites at Jerusalem was Uzzi the son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micha, of the sons of Asaph, the singers in charge of the service of the house of God. 23 For it was the king's command concerning them that a certain portion should be for the singers, a quota day by day.

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Neh 12:27 - 30

27 Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and singing, with cymbals and stringed instruments and harps. 28 And the sons of the singers gathered together from the countryside around Jerusalem, from the villages of the Netophathites, 29 from the house of Gilgal, and from the fields of Geba and Azmaveth; for the singers had built themselves villages all around Jerusalem. 30 Then the priests and Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, the gates, and the wall.

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Neh 12:44 - 47

44 And at the same time some were appointed over the rooms of the storehouse for the offerings, the firstfruits, and the tithes, to gather into them from the fields of the cities the portions specified by the Law for the priests and Levites; for Judah rejoiced over the priests and Levites who ministered. 45 Both the singers and the gatekeepers kept the charge of their God and the charge of the purification, according to the command of David and Solomon his son. 46 For in the days of David and Asaph of old there were chiefs of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. 47 In the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah all Israel gave the portions for the singers and the gatekeepers, a portion for each day. They also consecrated holy things for the Levites, and the Levites consecrated them for the children of Aaron.

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Seven Old Testament 'revivals' after David:

1. Solomon (1010 BC) - 2 Chron 7:4 - 6, 8:12 - 14
2. Jehoshaphat (870 BC) - 2 Chron 20
3. Joash and Jehoida (853 BC) - 2 Chron 23:18 - 19
4. Hezekiah (726 BC) - 2 Chron 29:20 - 24, 2 Chron 29:25 - 31, 2 Chron 35
5. Josiah (635 BC) - 2 Chron 34:29 - 35:14, 2 Chron 35:13 - 15
6. Zerubbabel (536 BC) - Ezra 3:10 - 11
7. Nehemiah (446 BC)

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A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building. The arch is made of light-colored stone blocks and is set within a larger wall of similar stone. The ground in the foreground is covered in rubble, including broken stones and wooden planks. A simple wooden railing is positioned in front of the archway. The overall scene is one of decay and destruction.

Is 60:18, “Your walls will be called salvation, your gates praise.”

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A photograph of a stone archway in a ruined building, with rubble on the ground. The archway is made of large, light-colored stone blocks. The ground in the foreground is covered in a large pile of broken stone blocks and debris. The background shows more of the stone structure, including another archway and a window. The overall scene is one of destruction and decay.

John 4:23 - 24

23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

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3. The Word

Neh 8:1 - 12

1 Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel. 2 So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. 3 Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

4 So Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of wood which they had made for the purpose;

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Neh 8:1 - 12

and beside him, at his right hand, stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Urijah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah; and at his left hand Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam. 5 'And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.'

6 And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God.

7 Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people stood in their place. 8 So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.

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Neh 8:1 - 12

9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.

10 Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, AND SEND PORTIONS TO THOSE FOR WHOM NOTHING IS PREPARED; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

11 So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved." 12 And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.

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4. Unstopping Old Wells

Neh 8:13 - 18

13 Now on the second day the heads of the fathers' houses of all the people, with the priests and Levites, were gathered to Ezra the scribe, in order to understand the words of the Law. 14 And they found written in the Law, which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month, 15 and that they should announce and proclaim in all their cities and in Jerusalem, saying, "Go out to the mountain, and bring olive branches, branches of oil trees, myrtle branches, palm branches, and branches of leafy trees, to make booths, as it is written."

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Neh 8:13 - 18

16 Then the people went out and brought them and made themselves booths, each one on the roof of his house, or in their courtyards or the courts of the house of God, and in the open square of the Water Gate and in the open square of the Gate of Ephraim. 17 So the whole assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and sat under the booths; for since the days of Joshua the son of Nun until that day the children of Israel had not done so. And there was very great gladness. 18 Also day by day, from the first day until the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day there was a sacred assembly, according to the prescribed manner.

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4. Rekindled Covenant / Relationship

Neh 9:1 - 4

1 Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads. 2 Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. 3 And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God.

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Neh 9:38 - 10:1

“And because of all this,
We make a sure covenant and write it;
Our leaders, our Levites, and our priests seal it.”

Now those who placed their seal on the document were: Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah, and Zedekiah...”

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