

Ezra & Nehemiah; Lesson 10 Worshiping the Lord

Our mission; Neh. 12:27–47

Memory Verse

Ezra 3:11 (NKJV) *“And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord: ‘For He is good, for His mercy endures forever* toward Israel’ ”* *(Found 41 times in the Bible).

Singing the Songs of the Lord

Nehemiah 12:27 *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.*

Deuteronomy 20:5 (NKJV) *“Then the officers shall speak to the people, saying: ‘What man is there who has built a new house and has not **dedicated it**? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man **dedicate it**.*

A Song at the Dedication of the House of David.

Psalm 30:1–3 (NKJV) *I will extol You, O Lord, for You have lifted me up, And have not let my foes rejoice over me. O Lord my God, I cried out to You, And You healed me. O Lord, You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.*

***1 Kings 8:63 (NKJV)** *And Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to the Lord, twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel **dedicated** the house of the Lord.*

2 Chronicles 5:13–14 (NKJV) *indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying: “For He is good, For His mercy endures forever,” that the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud,¹⁴ so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.*

Psalm 71:22, 23 *Also with the lute I will praise you; And Your faithfulness, O my God! To You I will sing with the harp, O Holy One of Israel. My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You,..*

Psalm 57:9 *I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing to You among the nations. To witness to the heathen, to edify the church.*

Music has power to communicate, to inspire, to change

- "Give me the music of a nation and I will change the mind of that nation" (Plato) Music is a secondary language to express.
- “If one should desire to know whether a kingdom is well governed, or if its morals are good or bad, the quality of its music will furnish the answer.” – Confucius
- “I knew a very wise man who believed that if a man were permitted to make all the ballads, he need not care who should make the laws of a nation.” -- Andrew Fletcher
- "Music can be a great power for good." —*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 71. "Music . rightly employed, is a precious gift of God, designed to uplift the thoughts to high and noble themes, to inspire and elevate the *soul*."—*Education*, p. 167. "Song is one of the most effective means of impressing spiritual truth upon the *heart*."—*Evangelism*, p. 500. "Music was made to serve a holy purpose, to lift the thoughts to that which is pure, noble, and elevating."—*Patriarchs & Prophets*, p. 594.

Purification

***Nehemiah 12:30 (NKJV)** *Then the priests and Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, the gates, and the wall.*

Rubbish by gates, walls were used in other ways.

Deuteronomy 23:14 (NKJV) *For the Lord your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and give your enemies over to you; therefore your camp shall be holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you, and turn away from you.*

Numbers 19:19 (NKJV) *and on the seventh day he shall purify himself, wash his clothes, and bathe in water; and at evening he shall be clean.*

Daniel 12:10 (NKJV) *Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.*

1 John 1:7 (NKJV) *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

Phil 4:8 *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

Rom 12:9 ***Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.***

Psalm 101:3 *I will set nothing wicked before my eyes;*

Job 31:1 *"I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?"*

- Someone has said: "It is not enough for a good gardener to love flowers; he must also hate weeds."

Two Large Thanksgiving Choirs

Nehemiah 12:31–43 (NKJV) *So I brought the leaders of Judah up on the wall, and appointed two large thanksgiving choirs. One went to the right hand on the wall toward the Refuse Gate. After them went ...some of the priests' sons with trumpets—... with the musical instruments of David the man of God. And Ezra the scribe went before them. By the Fountain Gate, in front of them, they went up the stairs of the City of David, on the stairway of the wall, beyond the house of David, as far as the Water Gate eastward.* ³⁸*The other thanksgiving choir went the opposite way, and I was behind them with half of the people on the wall, .. So the two thanksgiving choirs stood in the house of God, likewise I and the half of the rulers with me; and the priests, ...and The singers sang loudly with Jezrahiah the director. Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and the children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off.*

Jonah 2:9 (NKJV) *But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord."*

Daniel 6:10 (NKJV) *Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.*

1 Chronicles 25:7–8 ¹*So the number of them, with their brethren who were instructed in the songs of the Lord, all who were skillful, was **two hundred and eighty-eight**. And they cast lots for their duty;*

Sacrifices as Part of Worship

Nehemiah 12:43 (NKJV) *Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and the children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off.*

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV) *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy,*

acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Hebrews 11:24–25 (NKJV) *By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,*

Priests and Levites as Part of Worship

Nehemiah 12:44–47 (NKJV) *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. 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. For in the days of David and Asaph of old there were chiefs of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. 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.*

Nehemiah 13:10 (NKJV) *I also realized that the portions for the Levites had not been given them; for each of the Levites and the singers who did the work had gone back to his field.*

2 Chronicles 17:7–9 (NKJV) *Also in the third year of his reign he sent his leaders, Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. ⁸And with them he sent Levites: ...⁹So they taught in Judah, and had the Book of the Law of the Lord with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught the people.*

Deuteronomy 12:19 (NKJV) *Take heed to yourself that you do not forsake the Levite as long as you live in your land.*

"The intercession of Christ in man's behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross. By His death He began that work which after His resurrection He ascended to complete in heaven. We must by faith enter within the veil, 'whither the forerunner is for us entered.' **Hebrews 6:20.**"— GC, p. 489.