

***Jerusalem, the Holy City Once More***

Nehemiah 11 & 12

Pastor Brent Whitefield

Introduction: The wall having been completed under Nehemiah's supervision, the Jewish leaders set about the task of repopulating Jerusalem and reestablishing worship of God in the holy city. The dedication of the wall and the return of the priests and leaders to the city are occasions for genuine joy and exuberant worship. But Israel's prophet at the time, Malachi, warns that the Lord also expects obedience to His commands.



1. What does this passage tell us about the kind of worship that pleases God?
2. What is it that inspires the people of God to enthusiastic worship?
3. What sort of things or events should we as a church celebrate?
4. What are the sins against God committed by the Israelites of Nehemiah's day that the prophet Malachi condemns?
5. The New Testament equivalent of the temple is not the church building. What is it?
6. If observing religious rituals does not create a heart for God, what does?

hope among ruins

[A Study Through Nehemiah]

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Nehemiah 11 & 12

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“It is not bureaucratic pedantry that has preserved these names. The point is that these people and their chronicler are conscious of their roots and of their structure as God’s company.

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[A Study Through Nehemiah]

This is no rabble of refugees, settling down anywhere: they have the dignity of order and of known relationships; above all, of their calling to be 'a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' ” *Derek Kidner*

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[A Study Through Nehemiah]

The important callings of God in our
life are never without perils.



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[A Study Through **Nehemiah**]

“Israel threw off the vestment of her statehood together with her monarchy with surprising ease and without apparent internal crisis. This must be

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[A Study Through Nehemiah]



connected to the fact that the state as such was somewhat of a borrowed garment for Israel; for long before she became a state, she belonged to Yahweh.”

Gerhard von Rad

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[A Study Through Nehemiah]



And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy;



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[A Study Through **Nehemiah**]

the women and children also rejoiced.
And the joy of Jerusalem was heard
far away. *Nehemiah 12:43*



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[A Study Through **Nehemiah**]

Joy is a gift of God, a response to His gifts, an inspiration to sacrifice, and a witness to a joyless world.

A young green plant with several leaves is growing out of a cracked, dry stone surface. The background shows a bright sky with some clouds. The text 'hope among ruins' is overlaid on the image.

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[A Study Through **Nehemiah**]

Joy is a Christian responsibility, and is almost entirely unrelated to circumstances.

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[A Study Through **Nehemiah**]

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers

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[A Study Through Nehemiah]

to their children and the hearts of
children to their fathers, lest I come
and strike the land with a decree of
utter destruction.” *Malachi 4*

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[A Study Through **Nehemiah**]

A heart for God is not cultivated by the
exercise of religious duties.

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[A Study Through **Nehemiah**]