

Cell Notes
Nehemiah 7
August 1st 11.15

It's easy to pass over ch 7 and move on hurriedly to the excitement of ch 8. But ch 7 is vital. Two miles of walls have been rebuilt, and the gates of the city have been remade and rehung in just 52 days, a tremendous achievement. But the spiritual city is yet to be rebuilt. If we want to see revival, (ch 8) we have to do patient groundwork (ch 7)

1. N. is careful and wise. He gives yet more detailed instructions as to how the city is to be guarded. The gates are not to be opened until the sun is hot, and even then care is to be taken that guards are posted. When the sun is high in the sky, the city is vulnerable to attack, as the citizens of Rome discovered in AD 410. *What sort of attacks do you expect on your... our spiritual city? Are you vigilant in prayer?*
2. N chooses reliable leaders, his own brother, Hanani, who was introduced in ch 5, an honest and incorruptible man. And Hananiah, 'because he was a man of integrity who feared God more than most men do.' We live in a culture that separates the 'religious' from the secular. And does not look for the 'fear of God' in its leaders. *Does that matter, and should we? What does it mean to fear God? Is being a Christian a guarantee that the person fears God? Pray for leaders that we may fear God.*
3. N is pondering the challenge of repopulating the city when 'my God put it into my heart to...' (see vs 5 and following. The sense we get from this and the following list is that N is searching for the people God wants to take vital roles in the city. He wants God to rebuild the city... the people even more than the walls. This is very important. Jesus was similarly directive. (see Matt 10. 1 - 6)
I believe that God wants to repopulate his church. We need to be praying and be prepared to go searching for the people God wants to repopulate his spiritual city. *Are we praying? Are we prepared? Are we prepared to be bold?*