

# **Nehemiah 07 - The Gates Are Hung and Guards Are Set; A List of Captives Who Returned in the First Return (Zerubbabel)**

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## **Nehemiah 7**

### (3) Repopulation of the city and registration of returnees of the first return (7:1-73)

#### (A) Guarding of the city (7:1-3)

**1** Now when the wall was rebuilt and I had installed the doors, and the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites were appointed,

1 Now when the wall was rebuilt and I had set up the doors, and the gatekeepers and the singers and the Levites were appointed,

1 After the wall had been completed and its doors installed, then the gatekeepers, singers, and descendants of Levi were appointed.

1 Now it came to pass, when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the porters and the singers and the Levites were appointed,

- The last part of the project was setting the doors in the gates (Cf. 6:1); that task was not complete.

— Everything was in order, both practically (the wall was finished and the gates were installed) and spiritually—Nehemiah appointed the singers and the Levites.

— The walls were not rebuilt so the city had nice new walls—they were rebuilt so that they could worship God with greater glory and freedom than ever before.

2 then I put Hanani my brother, and Hananiah the commander of the citadel, **in charge of Jerusalem**, for **he was a faithful man** and feared God more than many.

2 then I put Hanani my brother, and Hananiah the commander of the fortress, in charge of Jerusalem, for he was a faithful man and feared God more than many.

2 I appointed my brother Hanani and fortress commander Hananiah to be over Jerusalem, since he was a faithful person who revered God more than many others did.

2 That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.

- "...in charge of Jerusalem" - Nehemiah placed Hananiah in charge of Jerusalem; Nehemiah's work was done. God would still use him in Jerusalem, but he wasn't going to remain in authority.

- "...he was a faithful man" - notice that he isn't described as a successful man, a wealthy man, an honest man, or a gifted man. He might of been all of these, but for God's purposes, he was a "faithful" man and therefore God elevated him to authority over Jerusalem.

3 Then I said to them, "The gates of Jerusalem are not to be opened until the sun is hot, and while they are standing *guard*, the *gatekeepers* are to keep the doors shut and bolted. Also appoint guards from the inhabitants of Jerusalem, each at his post, and each in front of his own house."

3 Then I said to them, "Do not let the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot, and while they are standing *guard*, let them shut and bolt the doors. Also appoint guards from the inhabitants of Jerusalem, each at his post, and each in front of his own house."

3 I charged them, "Do not open the gates of Jerusalem until mid-day. Until then, let everyone stand watch, keeping the gates shut and locked. Appoint security watches from

those who live in Jerusalem. Everyone should maintain his own watch near his house."

**3** And I said unto them, Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun be hot; and while they stand by, let them shut the doors, and bar them: and appoint watches of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, every one in his watch, and every one to be over against his house.

- Nehemiah, knowing that his enemies were still around, ordered that security measures be maintained: the city gates were to be opened only a few hours, during the busiest hours each day; and citizens, probably many of whom had been wall-repairers, were to serve as guards.

(B) Jerusalemites registered (7:4-73)

(a) Assembly (7:4-6)

4 Now the city was large and spacious, but the people in it were few and the houses were not built.

4 Now the city was large and spacious, but the people in it were few and the houses were not built.

4 Even though the city was large and spread out, not many people were living there and not many houses had been built.

**4** Now the city was large and great: but the people were few therein, and the houses were not builded.

- Jerusalem at that time was sparsely populated because before the wall was completed, it was unsafe. The small population made the city more vulnerable than it would have been if it was full of people.

— Nehemiah later proposed a plan to increase the population of the city, and consequently, the security of it (Cf. 11:1-2)

5 Then my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles, the officials, and the *other* people to be enrolled by genealogies. Then I found **the book of the genealogy of those who came up first**, in which I found the following record:

5 Then my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles, the officials and the people to be enrolled by genealogies. Then I found the book of the genealogy of those who came up first in which I found the following record:

5 So my God gave me the idea to gather together the nobles, the officials, and the people so they could be registered according to their genealogies. I found a register of the original inhabitants in which there was recorded

5 And my God put into mine heart to gather together the nobles, and the rulers, and the people, that they might be reckoned by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of them which came up at the first, and found written therein,

- "...the book of the genealogy of those who came up first" - documented in Ezra 2:1-70

6 These are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had taken into exile, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his city,

6 These are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his city,

6 a list of descendants of the province of Judah who returned from captivity, from those who had been exiled by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. They had come back to Jerusalem and to Judah, each one to his town.

6 These are the children of the province, that went up out of the captivity, of those that had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and came again to Jerusalem and to Judah, every one unto his city;

- Comparatively few people were residing in Jerusalem (v4), so Nehemiah wanted to populate it with people of pure Jewish descent (Cf. 11:1-24)

— To register the present population, Nehemiah began with the record of those who had returned with Zerubbabel and others (v5-7). The list of names in v7 is almost identical with the list in Ezra 2:2, except that Nehemiah included Azariah and Nahamani.

#### (b) Leaders (7:7)

7 who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, **Nehemiah**, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, *and* Baanah. The number of men of the people of Israel:

7 who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah. The number of men of the people of Israel:

7 They were coming with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, and Baanah. Here is the enumeration of: The Men of Israel:

7 Who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah. The number, I say, of the men of the people of Israel was this;

- "...Nehemiah" - not Nehemiah the wall-builder

- This list does not contain those who accompanied Nehemiah to Jerusalem in 444 BC; it is a record of those who returned with Sheshbazzar, Zerubbabel, and Joshua in 537 BC. The list is almost identical to the list in Ezra 2.

— So why did Nehemiah repeat the same list that Ezra had? Likely because he wanted to encourage people to move into Jerusalem (Cf. 11:1-2). This was one of the goals of the

return. There may have been a need to validate claims to property rights and similar matters as well.

— Nehemiah later used this list as the basis for his plan (Cf. 11:1-24)

(c) Listing of the people (7:8-38)

(i) By families (7:8-25)

8 the sons of Parosh, 2,172;

8 the sons of Parosh, 2,172;

8 Parosh's descendants: 2,172

8 The children of Parosh, two thousand an hundred seventy and two.

9 the sons of Shephatiah, 372;

9 the sons of Shephatiah, 372;

9 Shephatiah's descendants: 372

9 The children of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy and two.

10 the sons of Arah, 652;

10 the sons of Arah, 652;

10 Arah's descendants: 652

10 The children of Arah, six hundred fifty and two.

11 the sons of Pahath-moab of the sons of Jeshua and Joab, 2,818;

11 the sons of Pahath-moab of the sons of Jeshua and Joab, 2,818;

11 Pahath-moab's descendants; that is, through Jeshua and Joab: 2,818

11 The children of Pahathmoab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand and eight hundred and eighteen.

12 the sons of Elam, 1,254;

12 the sons of Elam, 1,254;

12 Elam's descendants: 1,254

12 The children of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.

13 the sons of Zattu, 845;

13 the sons of Zattu, 845;

13 Zattu's descendants: 845

13 The children of Zattu, eight hundred forty and five.

14 the sons of Zaccai, 760;

14 the sons of Zaccai, 760;  
14 Zaccai's descendants: 760  
14 The children of Zaccai, seven hundred and threescore.

15 the sons of Binnui, 648;  
15 the sons of Binnui, 648;  
15 Binnui's descendants: 648  
15 The children of Binnui, six hundred forty and eight.

16 the sons of Bebai, 628;  
16 the sons of Bebai, 628;  
16 Bebai's descendants: 628  
16 The children of Bebai, six hundred twenty and eight.

17 the sons of Azgad, 2,322;  
17 the sons of Azgad, 2,322;  
17 Azgad's descendants: 2,322  
17 The children of Azgad, two thousand three hundred twenty and two.

18 the sons of Adonikam, 667;  
18 the sons of Adonikam, 667;  
18 Adonikam's descendants: 667  
18 The children of Adonikam, six hundred threescore and seven.

19 the sons of Bigvai, 2,067;  
19 the sons of Bigvai, 2,067;  
19 Bigvai's descendants: 2,067  
19 The children of Bigvai, two thousand threescore and seven.

20 the sons of Adin, 655;  
20 the sons of Adin, 655;  
20 Adin's descendants: 655  
20 The children of Adin, six hundred fifty and five.

21 the sons of Ater, of Hezekiah, 98;  
21 the sons of Ater, of Hezekiah, 98;  
21 Ater's descendants through Hezekiah: 98  
21 The children of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety and eight.

22 the sons of Hashum, 328;  
22 the sons of Hashum, 328;  
22 Hashum's descendants: 328  
22 The children of Hashum, three hundred twenty and eight.

23 the sons of Bezai, 324;  
23 the sons of Bezai, 324;  
23 Bezai's descendants: 324  
23 The children of Bezai, three hundred twenty and four.

24 the sons of Hariph, 112;  
24 the sons of Hariph, 112;  
24 Hariph's descendants: 112  
24 The children of Hariph, an hundred and twelve.

25 the sons of Gibeon, 95;  
25 the sons of Gibeon, 95;  
25 Gibeon's descendants: 95  
25 The children of Gibeon, ninety and five.

(ii) By cities (7:26-38)

26 the men of Bethlehem and Netophah, 188;  
26 the men of Bethlehem and Netophah, 188;  
26 People from Bethlehem and Netophah: 188  
26 The men of Bethlehem and Netophah, an hundred fourscore and eight.

27 the men of Anathoth, 128;  
27 the men of Anathoth, 128;  
27 People from Anathoth: 128  
27 The men of Anathoth, an hundred twenty and eight.

28 the men of Beth-azmaveth, 42;  
28 the men of Beth-azmaveth, 42;  
28 People from Beth-azmaveth: 42  
28 The men of Bethazmaveth, forty and two.

29 the men of Kiriath-jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, 743;

29 the men of Kiriath-jearim, Chephirah and Beeroth, 743;  
29 People from Kiriath-jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth: 743  
29 The men of Kirjathjearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred forty and three.

30 the men of Ramah and Geba, 621;  
30 the men of Ramah and Geba, 621;  
30 People from Ramah and Geba: 621  
30 The men of Ramah and Geba, six hundred twenty and one.

31 the men of Michmas, 122;  
31 the men of Michmas, 122;  
31 People from Michmas: 122  
31 The men of Michmas, an hundred and twenty and two.

32 the men of Bethel and Ai, 123;  
32 the men of Bethel and Ai, 123;  
32 People from Bethel and Ai: 123  
32 The men of Bethel and Ai, an hundred twenty and three.

33 the men of the other Nebo, 52;  
33 the men of the other Nebo, 52;  
33 People from the other Nebo: 52  
33 The men of the other Nebo, fifty and two.

34 the sons of the other Elam, 1,254;  
34 the sons of the other Elam, 1,254;  
34 The other Elam's descendants: 1,254  
34 The children of the other Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.

35 the sons of Harim, 320;  
35 the sons of Harim, 320;  
35 Harim's descendants: 320  
35 The children of Harim, three hundred and twenty.

36 the men of Jericho, 345;  
36 the men of Jericho, 345;  
36 Jericho's descendants: 345  
36 The children of Jericho, three hundred forty and five.

37 the sons of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, 721;  
37 the sons of Lod, Hadid and Ono, 721;  
37 Descendants of Lod, Hadid, and Ono: 721  
37 The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty and one.

38 the sons of Senaah, 3,930.  
38 the sons of Senaah, 3,930.  
38 Senaah's descendants: 3,930  
38 The children of Senaah, three thousand nine hundred and thirty.

(d) Religious officials (7:39-60)

(i) Priests (7:39-42)

**39** The priests: the sons of Jedaiah of the house of Jeshua, 973;  
**39** The priests: the sons of Jedaiah of the house of Jeshua, 973;  
39 The Priests: Jedaiah's descendants from the household of Jeshua: 973  
39 The priests: the children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy and three.

40 the sons of Immer, 1,052;  
40 the sons of Immer, 1,052;  
40 Immer's descendants: 1,052  
40 The children of Immer, a thousand fifty and two.

41 the sons of Pashhur, 1,247;  
41 the sons of Pashhur, 1,247;  
41 Pashhur's descendants: 1,247  
41 The children of Pashur, a thousand two hundred forty and seven.

42 the sons of Harim, 1,017.  
42 the sons of Harim, 1,017.  
42 Harim's descendants: 1,017  
42 The children of Harim, a thousand and seventeen.

(ii) Levites, singers, gatekeepers (7:43-45)

**43** The Levites: the sons of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodevah, 74.  
**43** The Levites: the sons of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodevah, 74.

43 The Descendants of Levi: Jeshua of Kadmiel's descendants: that is, Hodevah's descendants: 74

43 The Levites: the children of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, and of the children of Hodevah, seventy and four.

44 The singers: the sons of Asaph, 148.

44 The singers: the sons of Asaph, 148.

44 The Singers: Asaph's descendants: 148

44 The singers: the children of Asaph, an hundred forty and eight.

45 The gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, the sons of Shobai, 138.

45 The gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita, the sons of Shobai, 138.

45 The Gatekeepers: Shallum's descendants, Ater's descendants, Talmon's descendants, Akkub's descendants, Hatita's descendants, Shobai's descendants: 138

45 The porters: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai, an hundred thirty and eight.

(e) Servants (7:46-60)

(i) Regular servants (7:46-56)

**46** The temple servants: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth,

**46** The temple servants: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth,

46 The Temple Servants: Descendants of Ziha, Hasupha, and Tabbaoth.

46 The Nethinims: the children of Ziha, the children of Hashupha, the children of Tabbaoth,

47 the sons of Keros, the sons of Sia, the sons of Padon,

47 the sons of Keros, the sons of Sia, the sons of Padon,

47 Descendants of Keros, Sia, and Padon.

47 The children of Keros, the children of Sia, the children of Padon,

48 the sons of Lebana, the sons of Hagaba, the sons of Shalmal,

48 the sons of Lebana, the sons of Hagaba, the sons of Shalmal,

48 Descendants of Lebanah, Hagabah, and Shalmal.

48 The children of Lebana, the children of Hagaba, the children of Shalmal,

49 the sons of Hanan, the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar,  
49 the sons of Hanan, the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar,  
49 Descendants of Hanan, Giddel, and Gahar.  
49 The children of Hanan, the children of Giddel, the children of Gahar,

50 the sons of Reaiah, the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda,  
50 the sons of Reaiah, the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda,  
50 Descendants of Reaiah, Rezin, and Nekoda.  
50 The children of Reaiah, the children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda,

51 the sons of Gazzam, the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah,  
51 the sons of Gazzam, the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah,  
51 Descendants of Gazzam, Uzza, and Paseah.  
51 The children of Gazzam, the children of Uzza, the children of Phaseah,

52 the sons of Besai, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephushesim,  
52 the sons of Besai, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephushesim,  
52 Descendants of Besai, Meunim, and Nephushesim,  
52 The children of Besai, the children of Meunim, the children of Nephishesim,

53 the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur,  
53 the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur,  
53 Descendants of Bakbuk, Hakupha, and Harhur.  
53 The children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur,

54 the sons of Bazlith, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha,  
54 the sons of Bazlith, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha,  
54 Descendants of Bazlith, Mehida, and Harsha.  
54 The children of Bazlith, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha,

55 the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Temah,  
55 the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Temah,  
55 Descendants of Barkos, Sisera, and Temah.  
55 The children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Tamah,

56 the sons of Neziah, the sons of Hatipha.  
56 the sons of Neziah, the sons of Hatipha.  
56 Descendants of Neziah and Hatipha.

56 The children of Neziah, the children of Hatipha.

(ii) Sons of Solomon (7:57-60)

**57** The sons of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Sophereth, the sons of Perida,

**57** The sons of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Sophereth, the sons of Perida,

57 The Descendants of Solomon's Servants: Descendants of Sotai, Sophereth, and Perida,

57 The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Perida,

58 the sons of Jaala, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel,

58 the sons of Jaala, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel,

58 Descendants of Jaala, Darkon, and Giddel,

58 The children of Jaala, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel,

59 the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth-hazzebaim, *and* the sons of Amon.

59 the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth-hazzebaim, the sons of Amon.

59 Descendants of Shephatiah, Hattil, Pochereth-hazzebaim, and Ammon;

59 The children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Amon.

**60** All the temple servants and the sons of Solomon's servants *totalled* 392.

**60** All the temple servants and the sons of Solomon's servants *were* 392.

60 All of the Temple Servants and descendants of Solomon's servants numbered 392.

60 All the Nethinims, and the children of Solomon's servants, were three hundred ninety and two.

(f) Those with uncertain genealogies (7:61-65) (Cf. Ezra 2:59-67)

**61** These *were* the ones who came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer; but they could not provide evidence for their fathers' households or their descendants, whether they *were* of Israel:

**61** These *were* they who came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addon and Immer; but they could not show their fathers' houses or their descendants, whether they were of Israel:

61 Here is a list of returnees from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer, who could not prove their ancestry and lineage from Israel:

61 And these were they which went up also from Telmelah, Telhahasha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer: but they could not shew their father's house, nor their seed, whether they were of Israel.

62 the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, 642.

62 the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, 642.

62 Descendants of Delaiah, Tobiah, and Nekoda: 642

62 The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred forty and two.

63 And of the priests: the sons of Hobaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, the sons of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai, the Gileadite, and was named after them.

63 Of the priests: the sons of Hobaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, the sons of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai, the Gileadite, and was named after them.

63 Of the Priests: Descendants of Habaiah, Koz, and Barzillai, who married one of the daughters of Barzillai from Gilead and took that name.

63 And of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai, which took one of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite to wife, and was called after their name.

64 These searched *among* their ancestral registration, but it could not be located; therefore they were considered unclean *and disqualified* from the priesthood.

64 These searched *among* their ancestral registration, but it could not be located; therefore they were considered unclean *and excluded* from the priesthood.

64 These people searched for their ancestral records, but they couldn't be located. Accordingly, they were considered disqualified from the priesthood.

64 These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood.

65 And the governor said to them that they were not to eat from the most holy things until a priest arose with **Urim and Thummim**.

65 The governor said to them that they should not eat from the most holy things until a priest arose with Urim and Thummim.

65 The governor ordered them not to eat anything holy until a priest would be installed with Urim and Thummim.

65 And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and Thummim.

- "...Urim and Thummim" - see note on Ex 28:30

Some scholars suggest that the list in Ezra 2 is that of the returnees before they departed from Babylon and that Neh 7 gives the list of those who actually arrived in Jerusalem or the list of the community sometime after their arrival. The two chapters, however, give no indication of those differences.

The list included people by 18 families and clans (v8-25) and a listing of inhabitants from 20 towns and villages. Then the priests (4,289 of them) were listed (v39-42), followed by 360 Levites, which included singers and gatekeepers (v43-45). The temple servants (v46-56) and descendants of Solomon's servants (v57-59) totaled 392 (v60). These were followed by reference to 642 returnees who could not trace their ancestries (v61-62). Some of the priests could not clearly trace their genealogies so they were not allowed by the governor to eat the sacred food till a priest was ministering with the Urim and Thummim.

The groups enumerated in v8-62 total 31,089, whereas the groups enumerated in Ezra 2:3-60 total 29,818. The difference of 1,281 is seen in 19 of the 41 items. These variations may be copyists' errors, or Ezra and Nehemiah may have had reasons for the different figures which were unstated and therefore unknown today.

(g) Grand totals (7:66-69)

(i) Returnees (7:66-67)

**66** The whole assembly together *totaled* 42,360,

**66** The whole assembly together *was* 42,360,

66 The entire assembly numbered 42,360,

66 The whole congregation together was forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore,

67 besides their male slaves and their female slaves, of whom *there were* 7,337; and they had 245 male and female singers.

67 besides their male and their female servants, of whom *there were* 7,337; and they had 245 male and female singers.

67 not including their 7,337 male and female servants. They had 245 men and women singers.

67 Beside their manservants and their maidservants, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven: and they had two hundred forty and five singing men and singing women.

- Nehemiah's grand total of 49,942 people is very close to Ezra's total of 49,897 (Ezra 2:64-65). The extra 45 in Nehemiah's total are the singers (Nehemiah had 245 whereas Ezra referred to 200).

— A scribe, in copying Neh 7:67, might have inadvertently picked up the 245 in v68, in reference to mules, and inserted that number for the 200 singers. He then might have mistakenly omitted verse 68 (Cf. NIV marg.). The total then was probably as Ezra recorded it—49,897.

- The total number of returnees listed here is 49,942 (v66-67; Ezra 2:64-65). However, the sum of the individuals mentioned in this chapters is 31,089 (and 29,818 in Ezra 2).

— For a detailed comparison of the two lists (Neh 7; Ezra 4), see *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament*, p 688. It compares the two lists side by side and notes the differences. It also contains possible explanations for the differences in numbers.

But how does one account for the difference between the enumerated 31,089 and the 49,897—a difference of 18,808? The larger number may include women and children. Or it may include Jews from the Northern tribes who might have joined the remnant in Judah and Benjamin. It may also include the priests who could not delineate their genealogies (v63-64). Nehemiah's enumeration even included the animals—a total of 8,136, most of them donkeys, used for riding. There was about one donkey available for every seven people.

(ii) Animals (7:68-69)

68 *Their* horses were 736; *their* mules, 245;

68 Their horses were 736; their mules, 245;

68 They had 736 horses, 245 mules,

68 Their horses, seven hundred thirty and six: their mules, two hundred forty and five:

69 *their* camels, 435; *their* donkeys, 6,720.

69 *their* camels, 435; *their* donkeys, 6,720.

69 435 camels, and 6,720 donkeys.

69 Their camels, four hundred thirty and five: six thousand seven hundred and twenty asses.

(h) Gifts given by returnees (7:70-72) (Cf. Ezra 2:68-70)

**70** Some of the heads of fathers' *households* gave to the work. The governor gave to the treasury a thousand gold drachmas, fifty basins, *and* 530 priests' garments.

**70** Some from among the heads of fathers' *households* gave to the work. The governor gave to the treasury 1,000 gold drachmas, 50 basins, 530 priests' garments.

70 Some of the heads of the families contributed to the work. The governor contributed 1,000 gold drachmas to the treasury, along with 50 basins, and 530 priestly garments.

70 And some of the chief of the fathers gave unto the work. The Tirshatha gave to the treasure a thousand drams of gold, fifty basons, five hundred and thirty priests' garments.

71 And some of the heads of fathers' *households* gave to the treasury *for* the work twenty thousand gold drachmas and 2,200 silver minas.

71 Some of the heads of fathers' *households* gave into the treasury of the work 20,000 gold drachmas and 2,200 silver minas.

71 Some of the heads of the families gave to the treasury 20,000 gold drachmas and 2,200 silver units for the work.

71 And some of the chief of the fathers gave to the treasure of the work twenty thousand drams of gold, and two thousand and two hundred pound of silver.

72 What the rest of the people gave was twenty thousand gold drachmas, two thousand silver minas, and sixty-seven priests' garments.

72 That which the rest of the people gave was 20,000 gold drachmas and 2,000 silver minas and 67 priests' garments.

72 The rest of the people gave 20,000 gold drachmas, 2,000 silver units, and 67 priestly garments.

72 And that which the rest of the people gave was twenty thousand drams of gold, and two thousand pound of silver, and threescore and seven priests' garments.

- Heads of the families and even the governor (see comments on v65) and the people gave large amounts of money and materials to begin the work of the temple

— Nehemiah's 41,000 drachmas of gold are 61,000 in Ezra 2:69. Nehemiah referred to 4,200 minas of silver (totaling more than 21 tons; Cf. NIV marg.) whereas Ezra refers to 5,000 silver minas.

— The 597 priests' garments mentioned by Nehemiah are 100 in Ezra. Again these differences are probably caused by scribal errors in copying the manuscripts.

(i) Cities settled in by the returnees (7:73)

**73** Now the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants, and all Israel lived in their cities. And when the seventh month came, the sons of Israel *were* in their cities.

**73** Now the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants and all Israel, lived in their cities. And when the **seventh month** came, the sons of Israel *were* in their cities.

**73** The priests, descendants of Levi, gatekeepers, singers, some of the people, the Temple Servants, and all the Israelis settled in their cities. Seven months later, the Israelis had settled in their own cities.

**73** So the priests, and the Levites, and the porters, and the singers, and some of the people, and the Nethinims, and all Israel, dwelt in their cities; and when the seventh month came, the children of Israel were in their cities.

- "...seventh month" - probably refers to the seventh month (Tishri) in 537 BC. This was the year the returned exiles named in this chapter gathered in Jerusalem to offer sacrifices and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles (Cf. Ezra 3).