

ORGANIZING THE COMMUNITY
(Nehemiah 7:1-73a)

- I. Establishing SECURITY (Neh. 7:1-3)
 - A. Assigning GUARDS for the GATES (7:1)
 - 1. Used the TEMPLE gatekeepers
 - 2. Added the SINGERS and the LEVITES
 - B. Appointing COMMANDERS for the GARRISON (7:2)
 - 1. Hanani, Nehemiah's BROTHER (cf. 1:2)
 - 2. Hananiah, a FAITHFUL and GOD-FEARING man
 - C. Announcing GUIDELINES for gate SECURITY (7:3)
 - 1. May have OPENED them during the heat of the day and CLOSED them at DUSK
 - 2. May have OPENED them at DAWN, and CLOSED them during the heat of the day
 - 3. Required guards be ON DUTY while gates were OPEN
- II. Taking a CENSUS (Neh. 7:4-73)
 - A. City was UNDERPOPULATED for its size and HOUSING was SPARSE (7:4)

- B. This census prompted by GOD (7:5a; cf. 1 Chron. 21:1)
- C. Discovered the roster produced by ZERUBBABEL nearly a CENTURY earlier (7:5b-73a; cf. Ezra 2:1-70)
 - 1. Verse 68 MISSING from most Hebrew manuscripts (cf. Ezra 2:66)
 - 2. End of verse 70 could mean “30 priestly garments” and “500...”
 - 3. Nearly EVERYONE lived OUTSIDE Jerusalem

III. Lessons

- A. We see the importance of taking reasonable PRECAUTIONS for SAFETY
- B. We see a leader DELEGATING responsibility
 - 1. Using men who were CAPABLE
 - 2. Using men who were GODLY