

# MODERN LITERARY RULES DO NOT REFLECT THE ANCIENT

- Neh. 11 & 12 are problematic for commentators because the lists have been proven to be compiled from several sources, have misspellings, and have been reworked over time
- To read the Bible based on modern literary protocols is foolish
- Authors/Editors wrote in terms of the cultures they were addressing



# FROM BE'ER SHEVA TO JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM



BE'ER SHEVA

- Editor wants to draw a broad picture of the population of *Yehud*
- A historical mile-marker
- Vss. 25 – 30 lists of villages NOT in province of Judah during Nehemiah's day
- Neh. 11:30
- The definition of Judah as the territory assigned by Moses

# THE IDEAL VS. THE PRESENT



- Editor of Nehemiah was thinking of the “idealized” boundaries of Israel
- Jews in Israel will correct you if you say “West Bank”
- It is instead “Judea and Samaria”
- The point is theological more than geographical
- In Neh.11 the editor trusted that God would FULLY restore Judah, as He promised
- God was not through with the restoration process



- Book of Hebrews chapter 11
- Bible Heroes often struggled and died never realizing God's promises
- They took actions on faith and truth that the world and their brethren sometimes thought ludicrous
- The Prophets are our **GUARANTEE** that the divine promises will come as they always have
- Nehemiah had accomplished a great deal, but it wasn't perfect and it wasn't complete.....**YET.**

# NEHEMIAH

## CHAPTER 12

- Chapter 12 in 2 parts
- 1) vss.1 - 25 Lists
- 2) vss.26 - end Dedication ceremony
- Lists
- Vss.1 – 9 Priests and Levites who came with Zerubbabel
- Vss.10, 11 High Priests
- Vss.12 – 21 common priests
- Vss.22 -26 Levites at the time of Nehemiah
- Lists more about family and clan names than names of individuals

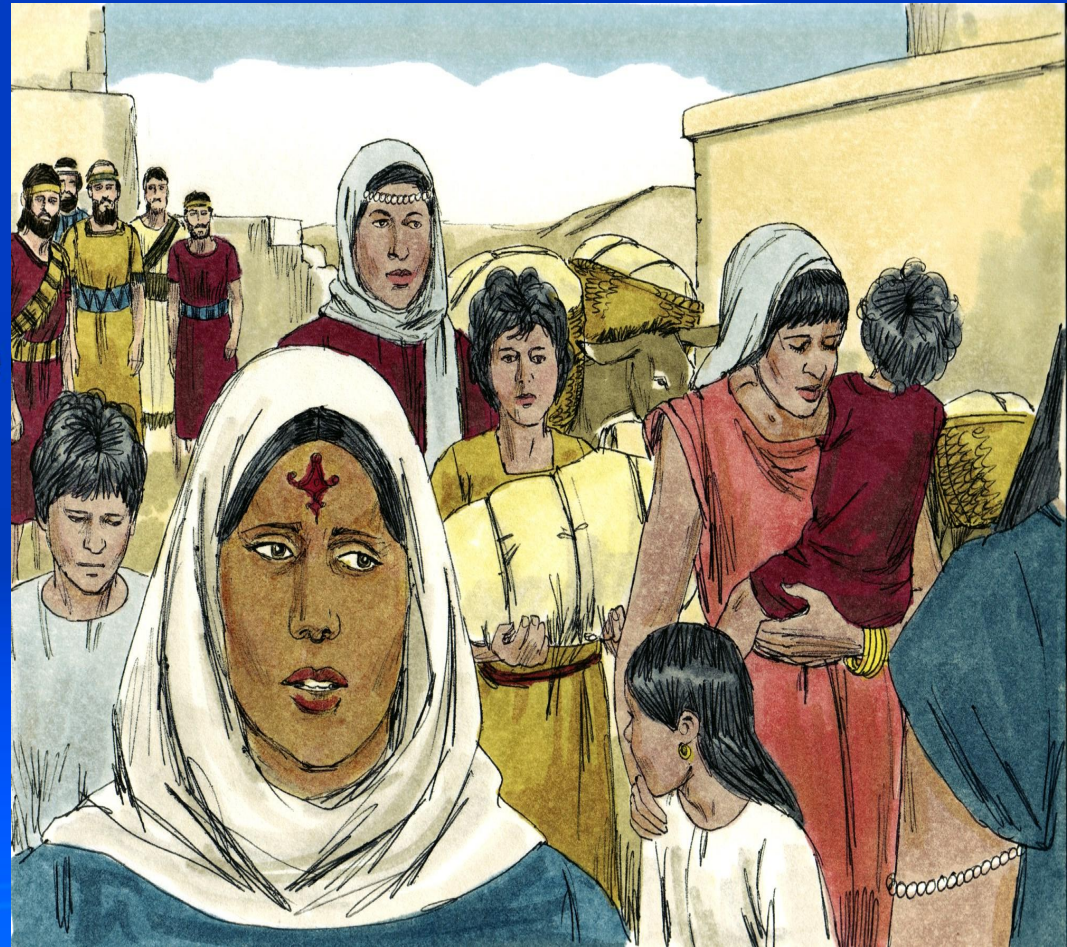
NEH. X. 3-9. Priests who sealed the Covenant.	NEH. XII. 1-7. Priests who were Heads of their Houses.	NEH. XII. 12-21. Priestly Houses, and their respective Heads.
1. Seraiah.	1. Seraiah.*	Seraiah, . . . Meraiah.
2. Azariah.	2. Jeremiah.*	Jeremiah, . . . Hananiah.
3. Jeremiah.	3. Ezra.*	Ezra, . . . Meshullam.
4. Pashur.	4. Amariah.*	Amariah, . . . Jehohanan.
5. Amariah.	5. Malluch.*	Meluchi, . . . Jonathan.
6. Malchijah.	6. Hattush.*	— — — — —
7. Hattush.	7. Shecaniah.*	Shebaniah, . . . Joseph.
8. Shebaniah.	8. Rehum.*	Harim, . . . Adna.
9. Malluch.	9. Meremoth.*	Meraioth, . . . Helkai.
10. Harim.	10. Iddo.	Idiah, . . . Zecariah.
11. Meremoth.	11. Ginnethon.*	Ginnethon, . . . Meshullam.
12. Obadiah.	12. Abijah.*	Abijah, . . . Zichri.
13. Daniel.	13. Miamin.*	Miniamin, . . . — — —
14. Ginnethon.	14. Maadiah.*	Moadiah, . . . Piltai.
15. Baruch.	15. Bilgah.*	Bilgah, . . . Shammua.
16. Meshullam.	16. Shemaiah.*	Shemaiah, . . . Jehonathan.
17. Abijah.	17. Joiarib.	Joiarib, . . . Mathnai.
18. Mijamin.	18. Jedaiah.	Jedaiah, . . . Uzzi.
19. Maaziah.	19. Sallu.	Sallai, . . . Kallai.
20. Bilgai.	20. Amok.	Amok, . . . Eber.
21. Shebmaiah.	21. Hilkiyah.	Hilkiyah, . . . Hashabiah.
	22. Jedaiah.	Jedaiah, . . . Nethaneel.



- Priests and Levites out of job for 3/4<sup>th</sup> of a century
- Jews in Babylon couldn't properly purify themselves, atone for sins, observe Feasts or Shabbat, eat Kosher
- New customs and traditions created to "solve problem"
- Intermarriage between Jews and Persian gentiles, including the Priests and Levites
- Ezra 2:59 – 62
- Genealogy matters in order to obey Torah regarding who can serve God in the Temple.....and who can NOT

# PAIN AND CALAMITY IS ALWAYS AT THE END OF THE ROAD OF SIN

- Editor wanted to show that the Priests and Levites had been identified and vetted
- Ezra 10:1 – 5
- If marriages had stood, the sons would have been the next generation of Priests and Levites!
- Undoing the wrongs and actual repentance often brings suffering; innocent parties can get hurt
- NOT God's fault, it is self-inflicted



# EZRA + NEHEMIAH

The dawn of a new era for the Jews

- Approaching the end of the “Old Testament”
- After all the suffering and pain, finally the changes in behavior and lifestyle were paying off !
- Ezra, Priest and Torah Teacher, the religious sphere
- Nehemiah, Governor, the secular/political sphere
- Worked together, not against one another
- *Vs. 27 Hannukah ve-simchah*
- *Hannukah* = dedication
- *Simchah* = joy, celebration



# JOY !!!!!

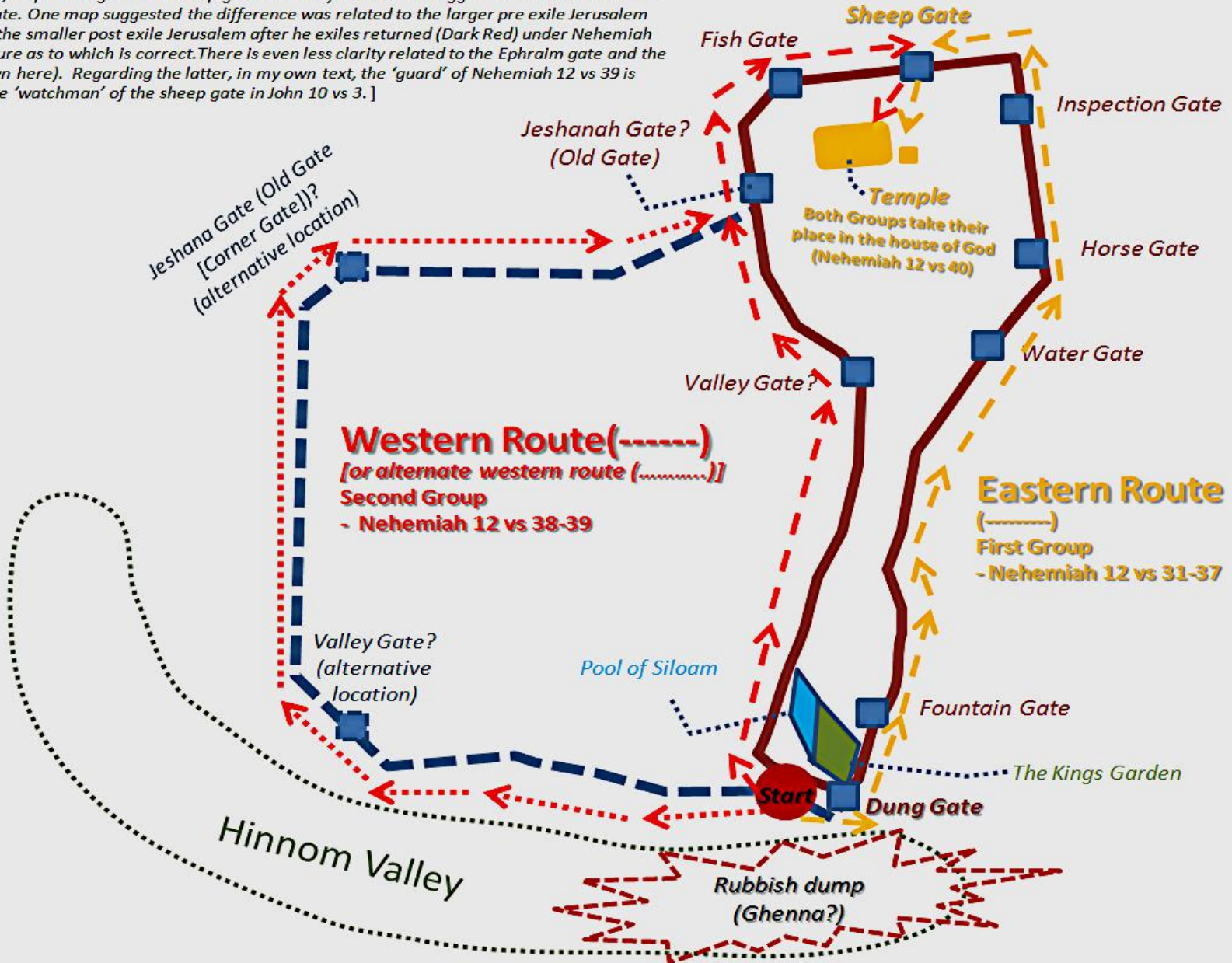


- Vs. 43 is all about celebrating with JOY !
- Necessary to go and gather ALL the Levites from their villages
- Singers as much as 20 miles away
- Purification of Priests, Levites, people (*am*), AND the wall itself
- Can ONLY be with water, (*mayim chayim*) living water
- Sacrifices are for atonement



# The Route of the Nehemiah 12 Choirs (including some alternative locations of the placement of the gates of Jerusalem).

[Browsing internet maps available there is general agreement related to the locations of the Dung gate, Fountain gate, Water gate, Horse gate, Inspection gate and Sheep gate but many alternative suggestions as to the location of the Old gate and Valley gate. One map suggested the difference was related to the larger pre exile Jerusalem (Dotted blue) as opposed to the smaller post exile Jerusalem after he exiles returned (Dark Red) under Nehemiah etc. Either way I remain unsure as to which is correct. There is even less clarity related to the Ephraim gate and the Gate of the Guard (not shown here). Regarding the latter, in my own text, the 'guard' of Nehemiah 12 vs 39 is presumed to be related to the 'watchman' of the sheep gate in John 10 vs 3.]





# EXUBERANCE AND REVERENCE

- Groups came down from wall, met at Temple
- Joy is the watchword
- There are times in our worship to be solemn and sober
- There are times in our worship to cut loose with exuberance!
- A congregation, with Godly leadership, can perform any task the Lord assigns us

