

# Manifest Destiny

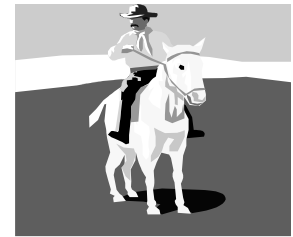
*Studies in Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther*

## Lock, Stock, and Barrel

Introduction to Nehemiah 11-13

In the old west the entire rifle was the "lock" - trigger mechanism, "stock" - the wooden part that held it all together, and "barrel" - the conduit for the bullet. This was the complete gun. Similarly, when we consider Nehemiah's task of restoring Jerusalem, he did it "lock", "stock", and "barrel". First, under his leadership one of every ten Israelites sacrificially committed to move their homes to Jerusalem. In order to reap the full benefit from the walls being rebuilt there would have to be a substantial population within the city limits. With no wall the number of residents had dwindled, but now that Jerusalem was protected there was a need for people within. Secondly, the rebuilding of the wall called

for formal celebration. It is so important to celebrate what God has done in the midst of His people by setting aside time to recognize His work officially. The opposite of this is simply taking success for granted, as if it were the result of our ability. In Nehemiah 12, however, the people made the dedication of the wall a big event, complete with music and a choir processional along the walls. The ability for these walls that had been mocked to hold up two choirs would have certainly been a cause for celebrating God's goodness to them. Finally, to insure that a task remains complete, we must follow Nehemiah's example of correcting all elements that



**Understanding how God's destiny for us is fulfilled.**

would erode what has been accomplished. He had been gone a few years, but when he returned he "cleaned house" by excluding the foreigners, throwing Tobiah out of the temple, calling for the resumption of offerings for the Levites, banning all retail activity on the Sabbath and angrily confronting all who had married foreign wives. He finished his task "lock, stock and barrel".

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

## Daily Questions for Nehemiah 11-13

*(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader%20resources))*

<p>1. Scan 11:1-36. What did the people do in v1-2, and what did they have to sacrifice (v1)? What did they gain (v2)?</p>	
<p>2. From 12:1-26 what other 2 groups came to Jerusalem (v1, 8, 12)? What did they do (v8, 9, 24, 25), and why do you think this was important for the Jews of that day?</p>	
<p>3. According to 12:27-30 who led the dedication of the wall (v27), and how did they do it (v27)? What was their approach (v27, 30)? How can we apply this?</p>	

## Nehemiah 11-13 Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. In 12:31-43 what main official was in each processional along the wall (v36, 38)? How loud was the singing and expression of joy (v42-43)? What was the effect (v43)?</p>	
<p>5. Based on 12:44-47 how did the Jews support the temple work (v44), and why (v45-46)? How should we apply this today?</p>	
<p>6. Looking at 13:1-3 who was excluded by the reading of the scripture (v1), and why (v2-3)?</p>	
<p>7. Read 13:4-9. Who had come to live in the temple (v4-5), and how (v4)? What was Nehemiah's response when he returned (v6-8), and why (v9)? What can we learn from this?</p>	
<p>8. According to 13:10-14 what had stopped during Nehemiah's absence (v10), and what had resulted (v10)? What did Nehemiah do about it (v11-13)? How do you feel about his prayer (v14)?</p>	
<p>9. Using 13:15-22 what further violation was occurring (v15, 16, 20)? What was Nehemiah's response (v15, 17-18, 19, 21-22)? Why did he do this (v22)?</p>	
<p>10. Looking over 13:23-30 what final violation did Nehemiah stop (v23-24)? Describe how he stopped it (v25-28)? In summary what was he doing (v29-30)?</p>	
<p>11. From the book of Nehemiah what are some of the things you have learned about prayer, planning, and dealing with problems? Complete this sentence: "Based on Nehemiah, I should..."</p>	

### Scripture to Remember

*"And on that day they offered sacrifices and rejoiced because God had given them great joy...so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard from afar."*

**Nehemiah 12:43 (NAS)**

### Celebration Fellowship

*Reaching—  
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### Life Group Questions—Joshua 7

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Share with the group about one of your greatest victories or accomplishments.
2. How would you define pride? Why is it so contradictory to faith?
3. Discuss why you think pride leads to presumption? What about prayerlessness?
4. Talk about why people have "secret" sins. Which part of the process toward secret sin trips you up the most—seeing, desiring, taking, or hiding?
5. Why do you think it is so important to overcome secret sins? Identify some ways to do this.
6. Discuss anything else important to you from the message today if you have time.