

The Dedication of the Wall¹

Nehemiah 12:27-43

INTRODUCTION:

1. As soon as possible after the completion of the wall, a joyful celebration of the event was made.
2. The celebration was called a “dedication.”
 - a. From the Hebrew word, *hanukka*
 - b. “The noun is most famous because of its intertestamental use for the reestablishment of worship in the temple after the excesses of Antiochus Epiphanes. This Hanukkah feast is mentioned in John 10:22. It falls in late December.”

DISCUSSION:

I. The Solemnities of the Dedication

- A. Preparations. Levites, singers, and musicians were prepared to take a leading part in the ceremonies (vv. 27-29).
- B. Purifications (v. 30). The priests and Levites first purified themselves, then the people, the gates, and the wall.
- C. Processions (vv. 31-42). Two processions were formed, Ezra accompanying one, and Nehemiah the other.
- D. Prevalence (v. 43). Many sacrifices of thanksgiving were offered, of which the people – men, women, and children – partook with many and loud expressions of joy.

II. The Significance of the Dedication

- A. Confession. The people “gave thanks” (vv. 27, 38, 40).
- B. Consecration. “And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and they purified the people and the gates and the wall” (v. 30).
- C. Commitment. “And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced...” (v. 43).

CONCLUSION:

1. The joy that our blessings awaken should be directed toward heaven with thanksgiving.
2. Purity is necessary for worship (1 Tim. 2:8; Heb. 10:22).
3. Children should be with their parents in the worship of God.

¹ From G. Wood, *The Pulpit Commentary Nehemiah* (New York, NY: Funk & Wagnalls Company, n.d.), pp. 135, 136.
Adapted by Andy Kizer.