



REBUILDING THE WALL



A DEFENSIVE WALL/CITY WALL

A **defensive wall** is a fortification used to defend a city from potential aggressors. In ancient to modern times, they were used to enclose settlements.

NEHEMIAH



Nehemiah 12:27

Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and singing, *with* cymbals and stringed instruments and harps.



Why were they celebrating?

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CAPTIVITY

Nehemiah 12:30

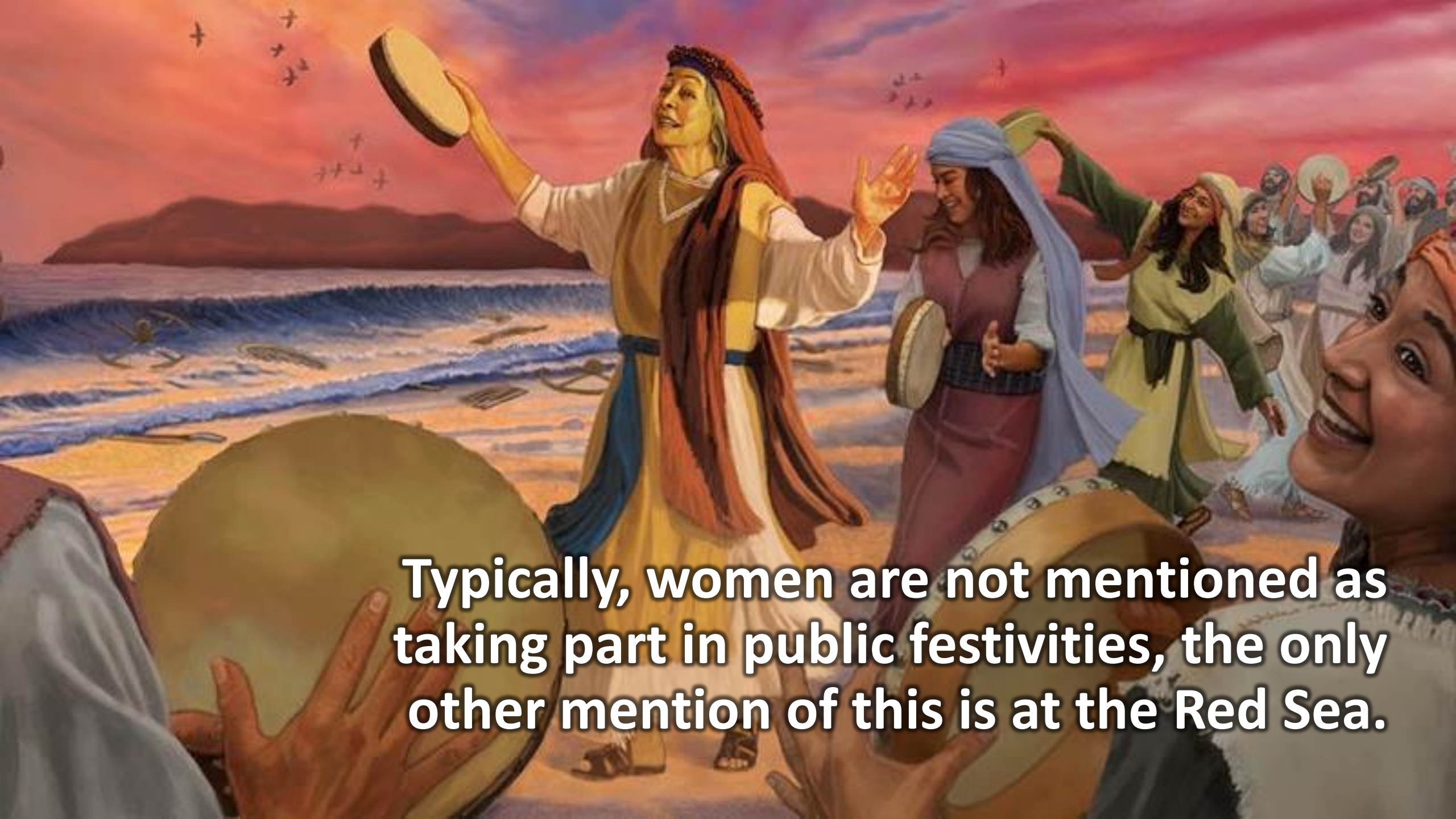
Then the priests and Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, the gates, and the wall.



**Purification and
cleansing for the
dedication**

Nehemiah 12:43

Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and the children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off.



Typically, women are not mentioned as taking part in public festivities, the only other mention of this is at the Red Sea.

Nehemiah 13:1

On that day they read from the Book of Moses in the hearing of the people, and in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever come into the assembly of God,

Nehemiah 13:2

because they had not met the children of Israel with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them. However, our God turned the curse into a blessing.

Nehemiah 13:3

So it was, when they had heard the Law, that they separated all the mixed multitude from Israel.



Separation of the peoples



NEHEMIAH

A TIME TO BUILD

REBUILDING MORE THAN A WALL

Nehemiah 13:12-13

12 Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain and the new wine and the oil to the storehouse. **13** And I appointed as treasurers over the storehouse... for they were considered faithful, and their task *was* to distribute to their brethren.

Addressing
the giving
and
allocation of
funds



Nehemiah 13:15

In those days I saw *people* in Judah **treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and loading donkeys** with wine, grapes, figs, and all *kinds of* burdens, which **they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day.** And **I warned *them*** about the day on which they were **selling provisions.**

Nehemiah 13:16

Men of Tyre dwelt there also, who brought in fish and all kinds of goods, and *sold them on the Sabbath* to the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem.



Does the Bible actually say not to buy and sell on the Sabbath?

The foreigners among them were doing it

I
THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER
GODS BEFORE ME

II
THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO
THEE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE

III
THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME
OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN

IV
REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY
TO KEEP IT HOLY

V
HONOUR THY FATHER AND
THY MOTHER

VI
THOU SHALT NOT KILL

VII
THOU SHALT NOT
COMMIT ADULTERY

XIII
THOU SHALT NOT STEAL

IX
THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS
AGAINST THY NEIGHBOUR

X

Violation of God's Law was indicative of what
was in their hearts.

Nehemiah 13:17

Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said to them, “What evil thing *is* this that you do, by which you profane the Sabbath day?”

Nehemiah 13:18

Did not your fathers do thus, and did not our God bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Yet you bring added wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath.”



Open rebellion is what got us into this
mess in the first place.

Nehemiah 13:19

So it was, at the gates of Jerusalem, as it began to be dark before the Sabbath, that I commanded the gates to be shut, and charged that **they must not be opened till after the Sabbath**. Then I posted *some* of my servants at the gates, *so that* **no burdens would be brought in on the Sabbath day**.



Desperate times call
for desperate
measures.
Nehemiah purposed
to protect the
fringes of the
Sabbath.

Nehemiah 13:21

Then I warned them, and said to them, “Why do you spend the night around the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you!” From that time on they came no *more* on the Sabbath.



Trading near the city on the Sabbath is now enforced.

Nehemiah 13:22

And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should go and guard the gates, to sanctify the Sabbath day.

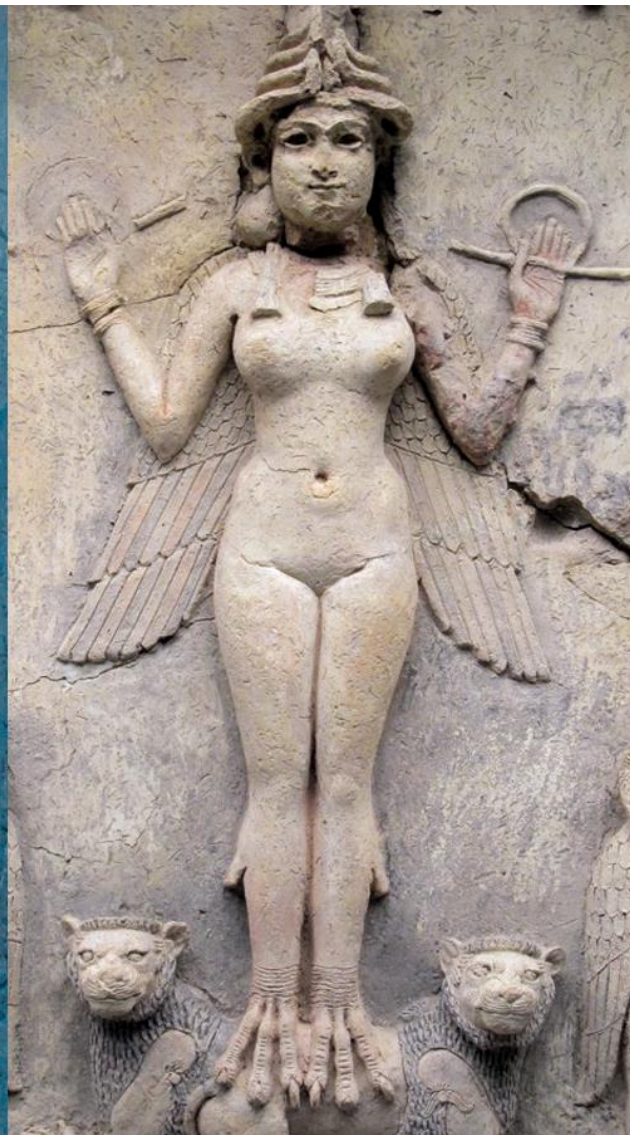
Remember me, O my God, *concerning* this also, and spare me according to the greatness of Your mercy!



Levitical cleansing

Nehemiah 13:24

And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and **could not speak the language of Judah**, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people.



When paganism mixes with God's people.

Nehemiah 13:25

So I contended with them and cursed them, struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, *saying*, “You shall not give your daughters as wives to their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons or yourselves.

Nehemiah 13:26

Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations there was no king like him, who was beloved of his God; and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless pagan women caused even him to sin.



King Solomon had 700 wives, princesses and 300 concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.

Nehemiah 13:29

Remember **them**, O my God,
because they have defiled the
priesthood and the covenant of the
priesthood and the Levites.

Nehemiah 13:30

Thus I cleansed them of everything pagan. I also assigned duties to the priests and the Levites, each to his service,



God blesses
when we take a
stand

<https://www.nadadventist.org/news/faith-and-basketball-high-school-team-fights-right-compete-and-keep-their-sabbath>



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