

# Discover your Destiny: Finding your Place in God's Wall... \_\_\_\_\_

## The Background and Historical Setting:

1. **Ezra and Nehemiah were originally a single book** (per the Hebrew Bible, the Talmud, the Jewish historian Josephus, and the oldest manuscripts of the Septuagint with Origen, A.D. 185-253, being the first to separate this book into 2 separate books) of historical narrative that was compiled from a variety of historical sources, including **the personal memoirs of Ezra the scribe (458 BC) and Nehemiah the cupbearer to the king (445 BC)**, which, according to Jewish tradition, Ezra compiled into its current form.
2. The **purpose of these narratives** was to encourage the Jews who had returned from exile by reminding them that their **sovereign God was keeping His covenant and continuing His redemptive work in and through them for His glory**. The compilation date was likely around 425-400 BC.

## Discovering your Destiny: A Recap...

1. begins with embracing your Purpose!
2. requires organizing to Prepare!
3. becomes reality through a ruthless commitment to living the Priority!
4. Calls forth a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_!

## Discovering your Destiny and Finding your Place in God's Wall Centers in Developing \_\_\_\_\_!

Nehemiah 7:1-73

## Developing People demands...

1. Finding the \_\_\_\_\_. (7:1-2)
  - 1) Even though the walls were completed, the work for God was not \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2) What kind of people make the best leaders?
    - (1) \_\_\_\_\_—they look to God for guidance.
    - (2) \_\_\_\_\_—they work at accomplishing useful goals.
    - (3) \_\_\_\_\_—they stay focused when encountering opposition.

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." -John Quincy Adams

2. Guarding the \_\_\_\_\_. (7:3-4)
  - 1) Some organization is essential for lasting \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2) Security must be strengthened in order to remain safe.
  - 3) What matters enough for you to protect it...is it of eternal value?
3. Enlisting the \_\_\_\_\_ (7:5-73; cf. Ezra 2).
  - 1) The basis of this census was probably a plan for \_\_\_\_\_ (since Jerusalem was sparsely populated).
  - 2) The reasons for this census were at least 3.
    - (1) \_\_\_\_\_, the family was more important than the individual.
    - (2) \_\_\_\_\_, there was a need to determine who actually belonged to the community of faith.
    - (3) \_\_\_\_\_, there could be documentation regarding who was given permission to build.
  - 3) The power of this census was the discovery of the various families represented would allow for a sharing of \_\_\_\_\_.

## First Baptist Church Membership Commitment

*"As a baptized believer in Jesus Christ and being in agreement with the basics of FBCE's statements, strategy, and structure, I now commit myself to God and to the other members to do 4 things:"*

1. I will \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of my Church.
  - *By growing spiritually (Romans 15:16)*
  - *By acting in love toward other members (Romans 15:5; 1 Peter 1:22; Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)*
  - *By following the leaders (Hebrews 13:17)*
2. I will \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of my Church.
  - *By praying for its growth (1 Thessalonians 1:2)*
  - *By inviting the unchurched to attend (Luke 14:23)*
  - *By warmly welcoming those who come (Romans 15:7)*
3. I will \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of my Church.
  - *By discovering my gifts and talents (1 Peter 4:10)*
  - *By being equipped to serve by my pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11-12)*
  - *By developing a servant's heart of humility (Phil. 2:3-4,7)*
4. I will \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of my Church.
  - *By attending faithfully (Hebrews 10:25)*
  - *By living a godly life (Philippians 1:27)*
  - *By giving regularly and proportionately (1 Corinthians 16:2 and Leviticus 27:30)*