

Where's Your Chair?

Nehemiah 7 7b-60



Let the assembly of the peoples gather round you;
be seated high above them: O Lord, judge the nations.
Psalm 7:7

Praising:

Peace be to this congregation:
peace to every soul therein:
peace the earnest of salvation,
peace the fruit of pardoned sin:
peace that speaks its heavenly
giver;
peace to worldly minds unknown;
peace divine that lasts for ever;
peace that comes from God
alone.

Reading:

Nehemiah 7:7b-60
The census of the first return from
Babylonia

Under Zerubbabel and a number
of other key leaders (including
another Nehemiah), the people
were repatriated from an earlier
first exile imposed by King
Nebuchadnezzar. A cursory look
at the list of returnees (which also

appears in Ezra chapter 2)
includes leaders, temple officials,
servants and gatekeepers. Some
groups were identified by clan or
family name, others by the
settlement or locality to which
they were returning. To read of
the large collection of temple
functionaries, religious life must
have been flourishing before the
later second exile – the one
following which Nehemiah starts
rebuilding. Some suggest this
earlier list was a tax roll or a
register of land deeds or perhaps
a document drawn up for the
Persian court where Nehemiah
had worked. Whatever its origin,
it reveals a structured city
community where worship was
central.

Listening:

Praying:

We ask Lord for a sense of our
role as part of a local community

- that we may put our gifts and talents to the good of those around us
- that we may honour the place where we live, respect its history and work for its future
- that we may value the people who are our neighbours and look out for one another

Father: show me where I fit, in terms of home and family, in terms of Church and fellowship, but also in terms of the streets and houses around me. And then show me how I can serve. Amen

Doing:

Monday, 26 September 2016