

A MEMORIAL TO RESTORATION



- ***Yehud*** = Judah
- Basis of Jews' reform was the Torah
- Jews lived under a Persian King, in a sort of "secular" government
- Statement of Faith only applied to Jews of Judah (5% of all Jews)
- They could not bind the Diaspora Jews with a vow to this Statement of Faith



ARTICLES OF FAITH

- 1) Obedience to God's Torah as source of Law & truth
- 2) Marriage
- 3) Shabbat
- 4) Shmittah (Sabbatical Year)
- 5) Supporting the Temple and Priesthood
- 6) Providing for the Altar
- 7) Firstlings

SUPPORTING THE TEMPLE & PRIESTHOOD

- In the Bible a Shekel is a unit of weight, like an ounce
- 1/3rd of a shekel of silver per year isn't very much money
- Money to be used for Temple communal sacrifices
- Had nothing to do with personal tithes, firstfruits, etc.
- Persia had evolved into a monetary based economy
- Standard coin values, a "convertible" currency



ISRAEL
ANTIQUITIES
AUTHORITY



רשות
העתיקות



Finding the moral balance



- NO commandment to give money to support Temple
- However, Torah does require its support
- Leaders decided that 1/3rd shekel per year does that
- Takes into account modern realities, changes that occurred in society and circumstances since Mt. Sinai
- Modern Believers need to do the same
- Some Torah laws easy to adapt, others can be done literally, some have little if any cross-cultural equivalents
- Most Temple based ritual law can't be done, except in spirit


SUPPORTING THE ALTAR

- 6th Article of Faith, bringing wood for Altar
- Wood not abundant, expensive, hard to gather
- Beneath dignity, too menial
- Priests, Levites, lay people cast lots
- God would choose through the lots
- Casting lots meant to reveal God's will



Firstfruits Offering



- 7th Article of Faith, firstfruits
 - Ex. 23:19
 - Deut.26:1 – 11
 - Most firstlings of animals and crops are for the purpose of supporting the Priests
 - Num.18:11 - 15
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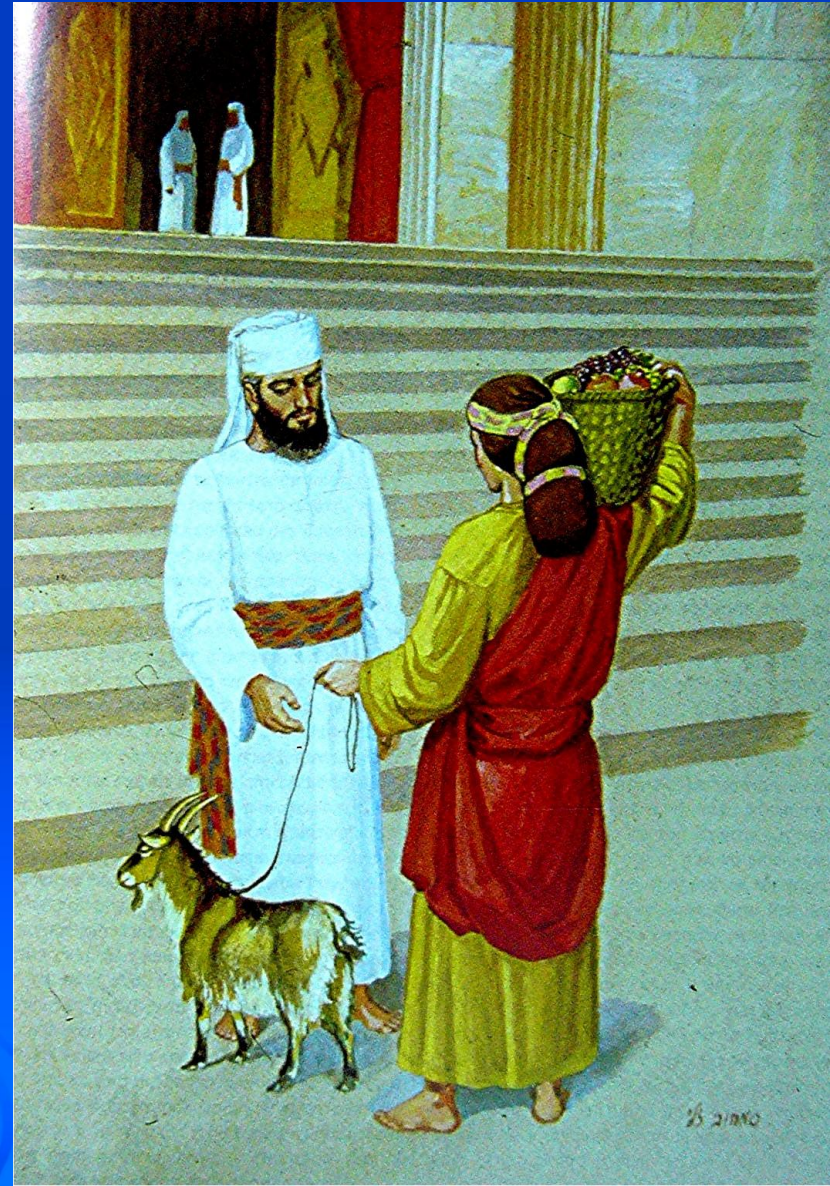
FIRSTLINGS OF HUMANS TO BE REDEEMED



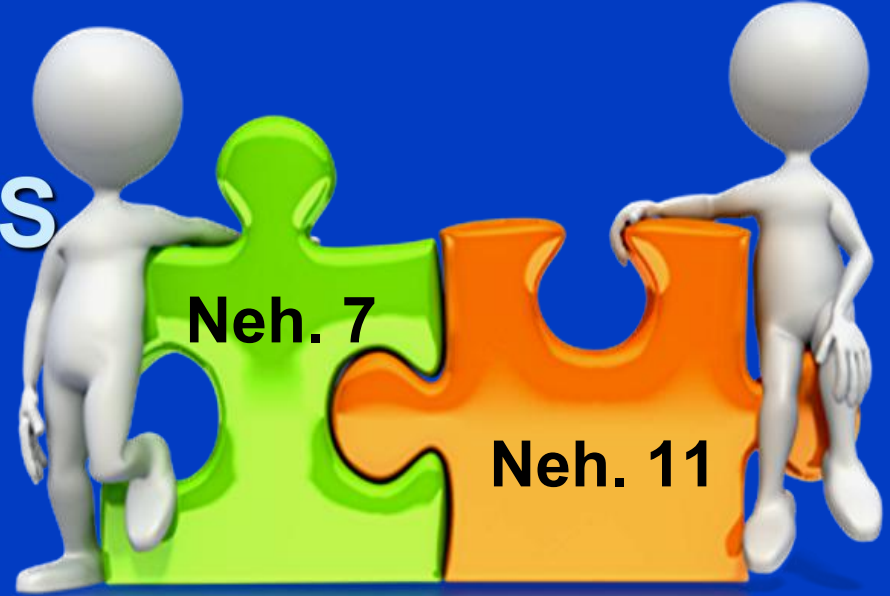
- Firstlings BOTH support the Priesthood and give to God what is rightfully His
- Num. 18:15 – 16
- Torah Law being re-affirmed
- NO Torah Law has to be occasionally re-affirmed over time
- We have no authority to overturn, change, or add-to God's commandments

EVERYONE GIVES EVERYONE PARTICIPATES

- Vss. 38 – 40 expound on vs.36
- ***“We will not abandon the House of Our God”***
- Temple = the building AND the people who serve
- Chapter 10 emphasizes the involvement of the entire community
- Warm feelings and good intentions never replace action and deeds
- James 2:14 -17



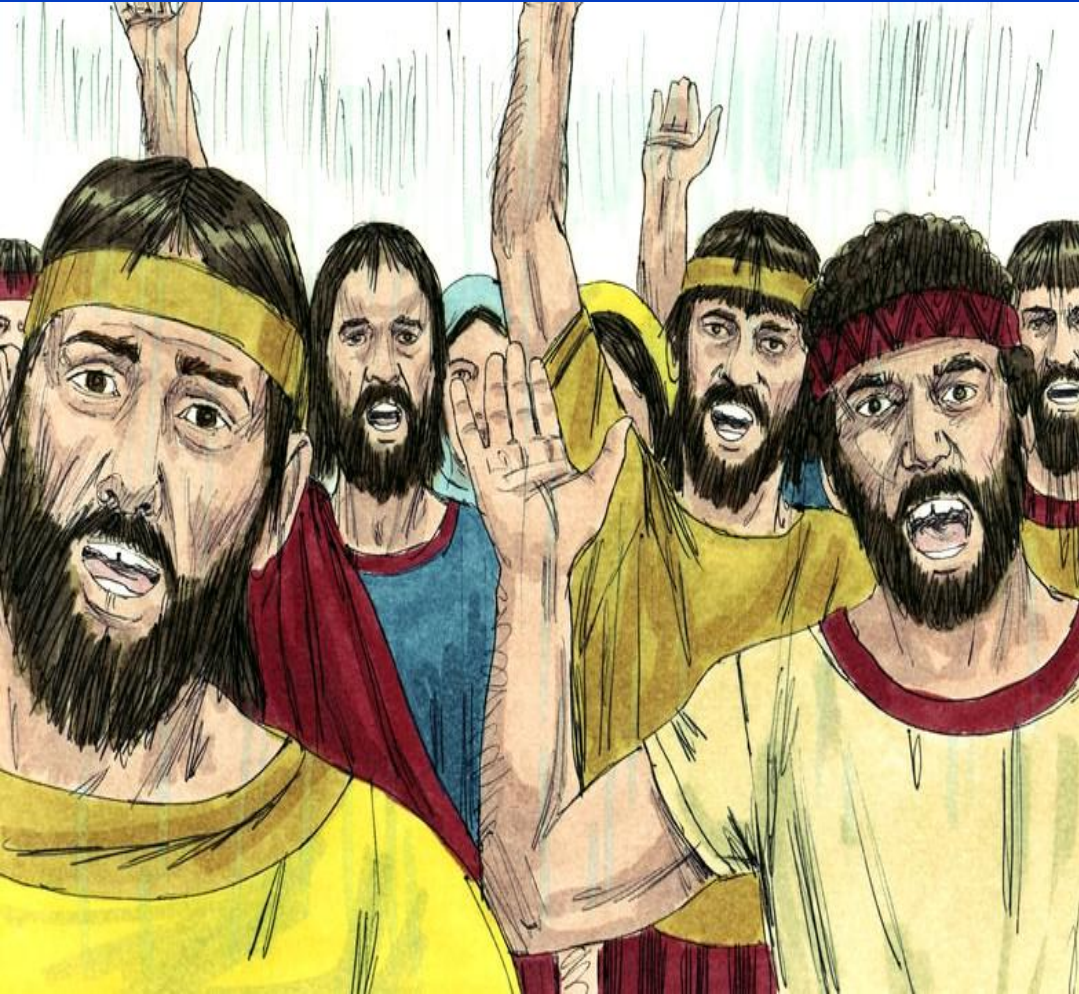
NEHEMIAH 11: NOT ENOUGH FOLKS



- Neh. 11 connected to Neh. 7: 1 – 5
- What was begun in Neh. 7 gets completed in Neh. 11
- Jerusalem doesn't have enough people
- The reason must be for the defense of the city
- Jewish leaders lived in Jerusalem because Nehemiah lived there



REPOPULATING JERUSALEM



- 1 in 10 families would be required to move to Jerusalem
- God's decision since lots would be used
- 1/10th is like a "tithe"
- 90% remain so little disruption in food supply and practical needs
- Not everyone was thrilled about having to move

JEWS = JUDAH + BENJAMIN

- A sensitive subject for modern Jews
- ONLY two tribal heritages mentioned in Neh.11:4
- Modern Judaism says Jews = all 12 tribes
- Also that Ezekiel 37 fulfilled by Babylonian exiles' return
- Not true !
- We are eyewitnesses in our time of the return of the 10 Lost Tribes

