

CREATING A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE CAN THRIVE

Nehemiah 7:1-73

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Introduction: There's a word that's crept into our vocabulary lately and according to Google's N-Gram, it's become prevalent. It's the word thrive. To thrive means to grow or develop vigorously, to flourish. We use this word to describe *gardens* that grow, *children* that grow, and *businesses* that grow. We have high expectations about vigorous growth these days. We don't just want to survive; we want to thrive. In Nehemiah chapter 7, the author has led his team to complete the walls of the city. The surrounding structure is in place, but the city is not thriving culturally, nor are the people in the city thriving spiritually. Nehemiah now organizes the city so that it is set to thrive. If you've read Nehemiah 7 recently, you know that there are a lot of names here. On the surface, it doesn't sound particularly interesting. But when we understand these names in context, we see something quite extraordinary about how people move beyond mere survival to a place of thriving.

1. **Thriving & Leadership**

Nehemiah 7:1-4

2. **Thriving & Identity**

Nehemiah 7:5-69

3. Thriving & Worship
Nehemiah 7:70-73

4. Idea

5. Takeaways