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Neighbor

Douglas K. Wilson
Liberty University, dkwilson@liberty.edu

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Jehoiachin of Judah (2 Kings 24:8). As queen mother she was among those deported in the first exile (24:12,15).

NEHUSHTAN (Nə hŭsh´ tăn) Name of a "brazen serpent" destroyed by King Hezekiah as part of an attempt to reform Judah's life and worship (2 Kings 18:4). The object was believed to be the one Moses fashioned to relieve a plague in the Israelite camp during the exodus (Num. 21:8-9). The word "Nehushtan" probably is a play on words in the Hebrew, the word for bronze being very similar. Nehushtan probably was a serpentine nature god worshiped in connection with the Canaanite cults. King Jehoiachin's mother was Nehushta (2 Kings 24:8), probably in honor of this foreign deity. See *Bronze Serpent.*

NEIEL (Nə ī´ ĕl) Name meaning "dwelling place of God." Town assigned to Asher (Josh. 19:27). The site is probably that of Khirbet Ya'nin on the eastern edge of the plain of Acco about 18 miles southeast of that city.

NEIGH Loud, prolonged cry of a horse used as a figure of approaching battle (Jer. 8:16) or of unbridled sexual desire (Jer. 5:8; 13:27; 50:11).

NEIGHBOR The Bible records a number of directives concerning the treatment of a neighbor but little definition as to what or who a neighbor is. In Exodus the term is first used in a way which crosses ethnic or national bounds, when the Israelites were to borrow gold and silver jewelry from their Egyptian neighbors (Exod. 3:22; 12:36). In this instance it was the women of Israel who were to go to their Egyptian friends and neighbors and to ask them for the jewelry made of precious metals.

After those references, the remainder of OT texts concerning neighbors are either positive commands, "Share with your closest neighbor" regarding the Passover meal (Exod. 12:4) and "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Lev. 19:18) or negative injunctions. Such commandments include prohibition of false witness and coveting (Exod. 20:17-18), moving property lines, and otherwise defrauding one living in close proximity (Lev. 19:13). Several teachings in the book of Proverbs and in the writings of the prophets address proper attitudes and actions toward one's neighbors.

The fact that certain directives were national in nature gives a ready explanation for the later mind-set addressed by Jesus when dealing with or teaching about "undesirable" neighbors. Usury, for example, could not be charged on a loan to a neighbor but was allowable to foreigners.

Though the Samaritans lived in close proximity to the Jews in NT times, they were not socially recognized to be neighbors by the Jews. When Jesus spoke to a Samaritan woman at Sychar (John 4), both the woman and Jesus' disciples were initially uncomfortable with the contact.

The most important teaching to define a neighbor came from Jesus' answer to the question, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus responded by giving the parable of the good Samaritan, which portrayed the Samaritan as the merciful neighbor. Jesus told the man to "go and do the same" (Luke 10:37).

Douglas K. Wilson, Jr., and Kimberly P. Wilson

NEKEB (Nē´ kĕb) KJV transliteration of a Hebrew term meaning tunnel, shaft, or mine (Josh. 19:33). Modern translations take Nekeb as a component of the place-name Adami-nekeb. If a separate site is intended, el-Bossa is possible.

NEKODA (Nə kō´ dȧ) Personal name meaning "speckled." **1.** Family of temple servants returning to Jerusalem after the exile (Ezra 2:48; Neh. 7:50). **2.** Family who returned from exile but were unable to establish their Israelite descent (Neh. 7:62).

NEMUEL (Nĕm´ ū ĕl) **1.** Ancestor of a family of Simeonites, the Nemuelites (Num. 26:12; 1 Chron. 4:24); this Nemuel is also called Jemuel (Gen. 46:10; Exod. 6:15) **2.** A Reubenite (Num. 26:9).

NEMUELITES (Nĕm ū ĕl īts) See *Nemuel.*

NEPHEG (Nē´ phĕg) Personal name meaning "boaster." **1.** A Levite (Exod. 6:21). **2.** Son born to David in Jerusalem (2 Sam. 5:15; 1 Chron. 3:7; 14:6).

NEPHEW 1. The son of one's brother or sister. KJV never used "nephew" in this sense, but NASB and NIV used it in this sense for Lot (Gen. 12:5; 14:12). **2.** When KJV was translated,