

**Dedicating a Wall, Purging a People**

*Bob McCoy*

Introduction: ...the “non-ending” that is an end...

Text: Nehemiah 13 (selected verses)

Main Idea: At the end of Nehemiah’s story he is concerned about three realities:

I. The Purification of a People

A. the Moab exclusion (v.1-3) – Purity of Witness

- the reason from history
- “actions have consequences” – especially culturally

B. the Tobiah decontamination (v.4-9)– Purification of Worship spaces

- the loss of storage for the rightful work/workers of God
- the loss of symbol of the rightful use of the place of God
- the loss of stability for the reforms of God

II. The Provision for the Priests

A. Priority of/for Worship v. 10 – 11

B. Practice of Worship v. 15 - 22

III. His Plea for God’s approval

- the four “remember me” prayers

IV. The Prophecy of Protection

- the Person who is better than a “Wall” – Zech. 2:1-5

Conclusion: The “new”/old meaning to WMW!