

Rebuilding...it all counts!

There is a saying: if you have the burden you have the job....very rarely will God give a burden because he just feels like he needs to emotionally dump on you! he wants to include you in alleviating of a situation or problem...

God wanted to promote the welfare of the Israelites living in Jerusalem... for they were in need in many different areas of life...a huge job...but God usually gives bit size pieces at a time...by bite size I mean...exhaustingly chewy, hard to swallow, not necessarily tasty,...and usually a much bigger bite than we wanted or think we can handle...which makes it very difficult and always inconvenient.....but doable...and accompanied by trouble and resistance...

though the people were in trouble...the burden on Nehemiah was to build a wall surrounding the city...they needed protection before any of the other needs could be met...and God strategically put Nehemiah in the position to meet this need...and so he sets out to accomplish this...with the Blessing of God and the King and the resources necessary...and the first thing he faced is what you will face in meeting the welfare of yourself or others...Resistance...

NE 2:10 When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed **that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.**

- **Sanballat the Horonite...** the governor of Samaria... northwest of Jerusalem and **Tobiah the Ammonite...** would have been included among the governors to whom Nehemiah had brought letters support from the King
- So...The most powerful political figures in the area were set against Nehemiah's plans from the start...
- **So Nehemiah moved about cautiously to assess the CURRENT condition of the walls and you devise a BUILDING PLAN,** but more accurately, you *obtain* knowledge of what God already has *devised* for you.
- God gave Nehemiah the burden to do accomplish the task.....so he went alone...he must be committed to the condition and work involved first...he will need others...but he must be committed first...same goes for you and I...if I am not fully committed, how do I expect others to jump on board...

NE 2: 15 so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. ¹⁶ The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.

Nehemiah ...thought it was best to keep everything quiet until the proper time. He informed others only after he knew the size of the problem and the steps needed to remedy the situation

- **In other words...look at the reality of the situation...no vain imaginations of “this is easy”...nor vain imaginations of being over whelmed “ we will never be able to do this”...but a real assessment of what needs to take place**
- **Leaders are often awake when others sleep...not easy leading...**
- **Secondly ...keeping quiet afforded Protection from the enemies, who undoubtedly were watching ...spies**
- **and Third for Nehemiah's secrecy was probably that he wanted to formulate a plan to ally the fears of the people themselves.**
- **After He prepared himself to present his building plan to the people...**
- **Which takes Faith...Faith and Preparation go hand in Hand!**
******* So He exercised faith to ask and Wisdom to not focus on the naysayers..the resistance ...but the helpers... doers..... to set before them a reasonable and attainable goal...simply rebuild the Wall**

NE 2:17 Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." ¹⁸ I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

- **He identified himself as one with the peoplewe are in trouble!**
- **He assured them God was in the project, And the King was also for them...**
- **He set before them a reasonable and attainable goal...simply rebuild the Wall**
When he did present his ideas...the people responded positively. This is an evidence of Nehemiah's wisdom as a leader.

*******The naysayers are always going to seek you out to give their opinions!**

NE 2:19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?"

- **Geshem the Arab joins the naysayers...probable governor or leader from Arabia ...to the south of Jerusalem...**
- **So the leaders of the North east and South aligned against him....trouble on all sides...ever feel that way... **Whatever God wants to build the enemy wants to tear down...****
- **His enemies attempt at intimidation was based on a two prong attack'**
- **First: they hoped that their ridicule and mocking the Jews weaknesses, current circumstances and past failures would cause them to despair of their ability to complete the project and give up before they even begun...**
- **Second: plan was to cast doubts on Nehemiah's motives....it wasn't really for the Jews he was doing this...is was to revolt against the King... and start his own**

kingdom...which would ultimately bring war and all those who would help Nehemiah would also be considered rebelling against the King...in other words enemies of the state....and ultimately killed...look what happened last time you guys rebelled.

- **Remember it has been said**, "If someone's kicking you in the seat of the pants you know that you are in front of them."

NE 2:20 I answered them by saying, "The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it."

Here is how you answer the enemies verbal attacks...

1. Do not be Discouraged by opposition...he had prepared for it and expected it...**Building and Defending go hand in hand! Anytime you try to do the right thing or commit to Rebuild...Satan will attack...he hates that!**
2. Courageously Stand on the authority of your position....I am a servant of the God of Heaven! God will give us success...and we will succeed despite our failures for God is on our side...He cannot fail
3. Display self-confidence in your position when facing obstacles discouraged by opposition....Do not argue with the opponents...state the facts... You are not his servants...and will have nothing to do with the building of the city and nothing in the city nor claim upon the city....it has nothing to do with you...

- **Remember this....**

PR 21:30 There is no **wisdom**, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.

- This does not mean plans will not be attempted in fact it say they will be tried.....what it does mean is stay on mission! you will succeed!

2 Corinthians 10:5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every **thought** to make it obedient to Christ.

No more talking...work to be done.... let the building begin... Nehemiah created order and allotted to every man a portion of the wall to build upon. "Arise and let us build" is the cry of Nehemiah and it is we who must heed this sound today.

Nehemiah described the reconstruction of the walls starting with the Sheep Gate near the city's northeast corner moving counterclockwise. This record honors those who by building helped reestablish Israel in the Promised Land in harmony with God's will (They may be anonymous to us but never to God. And neither are you.

Build well...we will start with the first two verses then break it down...there is the natural work but it parallels the spiritual

[first wall built and door built...the Spiritual](#)

NE 3:1 Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel. ² The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zaccur son of Imri built next to them.

- **Eliashib the high priest is mentioned first in the building, not because he was the most devoted builder, but because of his position, to his credit and the other priest...they did not see it beneath them to do the manual labor for the walls of Jerusalem under Nehemiah's leadership.**
- **the sheep gate is where the sheep are brought into the city...also where the sheep are chosen for sacrifice...it is the place of oversight by the Priests...**
- **it also in a way represents the place for the God's sheep are healed...** This is the location where the crippled, lame and blind were healed in the pool when the angel would trouble the water. and where many years later Jesus healed a man who had been crippled for 38-years.

John 5:2 Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. ² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda^[a] and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. ⁵ One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

- **think every day these disabled people would watch the sheep come in...many to be sacrificed ...yet they were excluded**
- **Now there is an issue with the High Priest Eliashib...For in chapter 13:4 tells us that he had been allied with Tobiah,**

Neh 13:4 Before this, Eliashib the priest had been put in charge of the storerooms of the house of our God. He was closely associated with Tobiah, ⁵ and he had provided him with a large room formerly used to store the grain offerings and incense and temple articles, and also the tithes of grain, new wine and olive oil prescribed for the Levites, musicians and gatekeepers, as well as the contributions for the priests.

- **and also (ch. 13:28) that one of his sons was married to the daughter of Sanballat...he had mixed motives..**

Neh 13:28 One of the sons of Joiada son of Eliashib the high priest was son-in-law to Sanballat the Horonite. And I drove him away from me. ²⁹ Remember them, my God, because they defiled the priestly office and the covenant of the priesthood and of the Levites.

Though he was high priest of the Jews...there was allegiance to their enemies...he was living compromised... .. though it is said they "built the sheep gate; they consecrated it and hung its doors" yet no mention is made of including "its bolts and bars", as is the case with others who built gates (vv. 3,6,13,14,15).

- **He is the picture of what Jesus said he detested...**

Matt 23:1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: ² "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. ³ So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. ⁴ They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. ⁵ "Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries^[a] wide and the tassels on their garments long; ⁶ they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; ⁷ they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called 'Rabbi' by others.

He did not repair in front of his own home... someone else outside his family had to repair it...as were told in verse 21...

3:²¹ Next to him, Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired another section, from the entrance of Eliashib's house to the end of it.

When a leader is like this, how sadly this can affect the entire testimony of God! Nevertheless, scripture credits Eliashib with what good he actually did. then they dedicated it to the Lord! First wall built and door built...the Spiritual in your home and section...

Then get ready to defend against attack from the enemy of our soul!

Neh 3:1....building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated...

- **Tower of the Hundred: Is a military outlook to keep watch on the northern approaches to Jerusalem, the hundred could mean the height of 100-cubits, (150-feet).**

Neh 3:1.... and as far as the Tower of Hananel

- **Tower of Hananel: A second tower north of the eastern gate, these towers allowed the lookouts to have a panoramic view into the distance of any approaching groups of men.**

Neh 3:2 The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zaccur son of Imri built next to them.

- **The men of Jericho:** The descendents of Jericho... and the neighboring people all worked together with a common goal, to build the walls of Jerusalem. The priests and men worked together. **the men from Jericho ...they were familiar with the value of a wall...but more experienced with the power of God...they built enthusaistically with the priest... Faith and works are powerful companions!...**
- **This is how we are to advance the Kingdom of God, building Jerusalem together as one body.**

Know this All work for the Kingdom is Noble Work and God !!

NE 3:3 The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and *put its doors and bolts and bars in place.* ⁴ Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired the next section. Next to him **Meshullam** son of Berekiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs, and next to him Zadok son of Baana also made repairs. ⁵ The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their nobles would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors.

- **Fish Gate:** This is the gate where the fish caught from near Tyre and Galilee were brought to market. The merchants brought their products to market here. ...This would not be considered prestigious work...it was where the working everyday normal blue collar people brought their catch.
- **In verse 5 the Tekoites** are mentioned as making repairs, but "their nobles did not put their shoulders to the work of the Lord." they consider such work to be beneath their dignity and Stature...and there was alliance between them and **Tobiah the Ammonite**

Neh 6:17 Also, in those days the nobles of Judah were sending many letters to Tobiah, and replies from Tobiah kept coming to them. ¹⁸ For many in Judah were under oath to him, since he was son-in-law to Shekariah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of **Meshullam** son of Berekiah. ¹⁹ Moreover, they kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

- **Not everyone who claims to help you will actually help rebuild the walls...**
- **To the nobles' shame, They were forever noted in Nehemiah's book for the lack of help. This group of nobles is a negative example of just how not to be. The most menial work in the Kingdom of God is better than any earthly wage. Building the wall is called by Nehemiah "The work of the Lord".**
- **When we hold back or think some aspect of kingdom building is beneath us, we are the loser.**

- **the people of Tekoa however built two sections of the wall, and some nobles from other towns rolled up their sleeves and went to work (3:9, 12).**
- **But Nehemiah didn't expend any energy on the nobles of Tekoa.**
- **Rather, he worked with the many willing workers. Those who didn't get involved were the losers in the long run.**

Start where you are...the sheep gate ...get your spiritual protection strong...

be willing to do the menial in order to be able to do the greater..

and remember God keeps track and considers it all noble!

end

[John 10:1](#) *“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the **sheep** pen by the **gate**, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.*

¹⁷ Also, in those days the nobles of Judah were sending many letters to Tobiah, and replies from Tobiah kept coming to them. ¹⁸ For many in Judah were under oath to him, since he was son-in-law to Shekariah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. ¹⁹ Moreover, they kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

Meshullam: Had given his daughter to marriage to the son of Tobiah, the enemy of Nehemiah. His daughter could have been an informant against Nehemiah to Tobiah, reporting on the situation in Jerusalem. Even today, there are people who are considered in the body of Christ, but are opposed to the work of the Gospel.

¹⁷ Moreover in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters unto Tobiah, and [the letters] of Tobiah came unto them. ¹⁸ For there were many in Judah sworn unto him, because he was the son-in-law of Shekariah the son of Arah; and his son Jehohanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah to wife. Nehemiah 6:17-18

Tekoites: The nobles of Tekoah felt the physical labor beneath them to advance them. This was the home town of Amos the prophet. They were forever noted in Nehemiah’s book for the lack of help. This group of nobles is a negative example of just how not to be. The most menial work in the Kingdom of God is better than any earthly wage. Building the wall is called by Nehemiah “The work of the Lord”. When we hold back or think some aspect of kingdom building is beneath us, we are the loser.

end

Donald K. Campbell identified 21 principles of effective leadership that Nehemiah demonstrated in chapter 2.

- "He established a reasonable and attainable goal
- He had a sense of mission
- He was willing to get involved
- He rearranged his priorities in order to accomplish his goal
- He patiently waited for God's timing
- He showed respect to his superior
- He prayed at crucial times
- He made his request with tact and graciousness
- He was well prepared and thought of his needs in advance
- He went through proper channels
- He took time (three days) to rest, pray, and plan
- He investigated the situation firsthand
- He informed others only after he knew the size of the problem
- He identified himself as one with the people
- He set before them a reasonable and attainable goal
- He assured them God was in the project
- He displayed self-confidence in facing obstacles
- He displayed God's confidence in facing obstacles
- He did not argue with opponents
- He was not discouraged by opposition
- He courageously used the authority of his position."

No more talking...work to be done.... let the building begin...

God created order in the rebuilding of the walls. Nehemiah allotted to every man a portion of the wall to build upon. "Arise and let us build" is the cry of Nehemiah and it is we who must heed this sound today.

I am responsible for my portion of the wall that God allotted me and you are responsible for your portion of the wall. One plants and one waters is what we are taught in 1 Corinthians chapter 3; one man is responsible to lay a foundation in the lives of others and another is called to build upon that foundation.

Desire not another man's portion; desire not any building activity that has not been allotted to you. Hear God's voice in this matter, we **MUST LABOR TOGETHER** in **UNITY**. God will not use exclusively any one person or ministry

Nehemiah described the reconstruction of the walls starting with the Sheep Gate near the city's northeast corner moving counterclockwise. This record honors those who by building helped reestablish Israel in the Promised Land in harmony with God's will (cf.,

1. The workers and their work ch. 3

the stage is set...let the building begin....This section begins with a list mentioning individual leaders and clans and their contributions...reminds us that no work of love performed for the Lord goes unnoticed or forgotten. They may be anonymous to us but never to God. And neither are you.

All those who labored in this good work are listed by name, just as in Romans 16 the Lord takes pleasure in recording the faith and labor of many individuals, such as Priscilla and Aquila who risked their own necks for Paul's life (vv. 3-4), "Mary, who labored much" (v. 6), "Persis who labored much in the Lord" (v. 12). Thus, some stood out specially, others only recorded, but all recognized. The judgment seat of Christ will reveal the work of **all** believers, and some will be rewarded more than others.

According to the maximalist view the two and one-half-mile wall would have enclosed about 220 acres. According to the minimalist view the wall would have been two miles long and enclosed about 90 acres. I think there is better support for the minimalist position. The hill of Ophel (lit. swelling or bulge) was the site between the temple area and the City of David. This is the area that Solomon had broadened and filled in when he built the temple.

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with Tobiah, and also (ch. 13:28) that one of his sons was married to the daughter of Sanballat...he had mixed motives..

Though he was high priest ...he left an opening to the enemy...and someone else ...outside his family had to repair it...as were told in verse 21....

3:²¹ Next to him, Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired another section, from the entrance of Eliashib's house to the end of it.

What a lesson is seen here! A man may be concerned to repair in measure the public character of Christianity, but have great compromise in his personal life!

More than this, though it is said they "built the sheep gate; they consecrated it and hung its doors" (v. 1), yet no mention is made of including "its bolts and bars", as is the case with others who built gates (vv. 3,6,13,14,15).

Does this not indicate that Eliashib was not so careful about full separation from the world, but would allow some measure of laxity in this matter? When a leader is like this, how sadly this can affect the entire testimony of God! Nevertheless, scripture credits Eliashib with what good he actually did.

*NE 3:3 The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and **put its doors and bolts and bars in place.** ⁴ Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired the next section. Next to him Meshullam son of Berekiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs, and next to him Zadok son of Baana also made repairs. ⁵ The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their nobles would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors.*

- In verse 5 the Tekoites are mentioned as making repairs, but "their nobles did not put their shoulders to the work of the Lord." Did they consider such work to be beneath their dignity
- To the nobles' shame, the people of Tekoa built two sections of the wall, and some nobles from other towns rolled up their sleeves and went to work (3:9, 12). But Nehemiah didn't expend any energy on the nobles of Tekoa. Rather, he worked with the many willing workers. Those who didn't get involved were the losers in the long run.

In contrast to this, one of the goldsmiths and one of the perfumers did this manual labor to which they were not accustomed. How good it is that the Lord takes full account of all these things!

NE 3:6 The Jeshanah Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. ⁷ Next to them, repairs were made by men from Gibeon and Mizpah--Melatiah of Gibeon and Jadon of

Meremoth--places under the authority of the governor of Trans-Euphrates. ⁸ Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the next section; and Hananiah, one of the perfume-makers, made repairs next to that. They restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. ⁹ Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section. ¹⁰ Adjoining this, Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house, and Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs next to him. ¹¹ Malkijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. ¹² Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section with the help of his daughters.

Verse 12 tells us that not only Shallum, a leader of the half district of Jerusalem, worked in repairing, but also his daughters. Does this not remind us of Paul's words concerning "the women who labored with me in the Gospel" (Phil. 4:3)?

No doubt some were not as careful as others in the work, but the Lord values true diligence in whatever He give us to do, as is surely indicated in

Colossians 3:23, ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

If the Lord Jesus is the Object in whatever work we are called upon to do, would we think of being anything less than wholehearted?

NE 3:13 The Valley Gate was repaired by Hanun and the residents of Zanoah. They rebuilt it and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. They also repaired five hundred yards of the wall as far as the Dung Gate.

NE 3:14 The Dung Gate was repaired by Malkijah son of Recab, ruler of the district of Beth Hakkerem. He rebuilt it and put its doors and bolts and bars in place.

From the Old Gate to the Valley Gate

⁶ Moreover Jehoiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired **the Old Gate**; they laid its beams and hung its doors, with its bolts and bars. ⁷ And next to them Melatiah the Gibeonite, Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and Mizpah, repaired the residence^[e] of the governor of the region beyond the River. ⁸ Next to him Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs. Also next to him Hananiah, one^[f] of the perfumers, made repairs; and they fortified Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. ⁹ And next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, leader of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs. ¹⁰ Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph made repairs in front of his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabniah made repairs. ¹¹ Malchijah the son of Harim and Hashub the son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section, as well as the Tower of the Ovens. ¹² And next to him was Shallum the son of Hallohesh, leader of half the district of Jerusalem; he and his daughters made repairs. **Nehemiah 3:6-12**

Old gate: Also known as the Jeshanah Gate, it was at the northwest corner of Jerusalem. It was also known as the Ephraim Gate.

One of the goldsmiths: The broad wall was repaired by people noted for their professions. We have goldsmith and **perfumers** makers who involved in the construction. They all worked together with the common goal of building the walls of Jerusalem. A broad range people including leaders and daughters are listed as being involved in the work of the wall. The daughters are noted as working alongside their father in construction of the wall. Contrast this to the nobles of Tekoah who thought it beneath them.

Tower of the Ovens: Located on the western wall, this could have in the street of the bakers.

21 Then Zedekiah the king commanded, and they committed Jeremiah into the court of the guard; and they gave him daily a loaf of bread out of the bakers' street, until all the bread in the city was spent. Thus Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard. Jeremiah 37:21

From the Valley Gate to the Refuse Gate

¹³ Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the **Valley Gate**. They built it, hung its doors with its bolts and bars, and *repaired* a thousand cubits of the wall as far as the Refuse Gate. **Nehemiah 3:13**

Valley Gate: This is the gate Nehemiah first left to examine the walls of Jerusalem. This was gate near the governor's residence as noted in verse 7, where Nehemiah was staying.

From the Refuse Gate to the Fountain Gate

¹⁴ Malchijah the son of Rechab, leader of the district of Beth Haccerem, repaired the **Refuse Gate**; he built it and hung its doors with its bolts and bars. **Nehemiah 3:14**

Refuse Gate: This gate is also known as the Dung Gate, garbage was taken to the Kidron valley.

From the Fountain Gate to the Water Gate

¹⁵ Shallun the son of Col-Hozeh, leader of the district of Mizpah, repaired the **Fountain Gate**; he built it, covered it, hung its doors with its bolts and bars, and repaired the wall of the Pool of Shelah by the King's Garden, as far as the stairs that go down from the City of David. ¹⁶ After him Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, leader of half the district of Beth Zur, made repairs as far as *the place* in front of the tombs^[g] of David, to the man-made pool, and as far as the House of the Mighty.

¹⁷ After him the Levites, *under* Rehum the son of Bani, made repairs. Next to him Hashabiah, leader of half the district of Keilah, made repairs for his district. ¹⁸ After him their brethren, *under* Bavai^[h] the son of Henadad, leader of the *other* half of the district of Keilah, made repairs. ¹⁹ And next to him Ezer the son of Jeshua, the leader of Mizpah, repaired another section in front of the Ascent to the Armory at the buttress. ²⁰ After him Baruch the son of Zabbai^[i] carefully repaired the other section, from the buttress to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest. ²¹ After him Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz,^[j] repaired another section, from the door of the house of Eliashib to the end of the house of Eliashib.

²² And after him the priests, the men of the plain, made repairs. ²³ After him Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs opposite their house. After them Azariah the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, made repairs by his house. ²⁴ After him Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another section, from the house of Azariah to the buttress, even as far as the corner. ²⁵ Palal the son of Uzai *made repairs* opposite the buttress, and on the tower which projects from the king's upper house that *was* by the court of the prison. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh *made repairs*.

Nehemiah 3:15-25

Fountain Gate: The gate to access the water of Siloam.

Pool of Shelah: Also known as the pool of Siloam.

Tombs of David: David was buried within the city of Jerusalem.

House of the Mighty: The tombs of David's mighty men, also in Jerusalem.

From the Water Gate to the Horse Gate

²⁶ Moreover the Nethinim who dwelt in Ophel *made repairs* as far as *the place* in front of the **Water Gate** toward the east, and on the projecting tower. ²⁷ After them the Tekoites repaired another section, next to the great projecting tower, and as far as the wall of Ophel.

²⁸ Beyond the **Horse Gate** the priests made repairs, each in front of his *own* house. ²⁹ After them Zadok the son of Immer made repairs in front of his *own* house. **Nehemiah 3:26-28**

Water Gate

Horse Gate

From the East Gate to the Miphkad Gate

After him Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the **East Gate**, made repairs.³⁰ After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. After him Meshullam the son of Berechiah made repairs in front of his dwelling.³¹ After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the Nethinim and of the merchants, in front of the **Miphkad^[k] Gate**, and as far as the upper room at the corner.³² And between the upper room at the corner, as far as the **Sheep Gate**, the goldsmiths and the merchants made repairs. **Nehemiah 3:29b-32**

East Gate: The gate of the Jewish Priesthood. The gate is sealed today, by Muslim whose goal was to prevent the return of the Messiah to Jerusalem.

Miphkad Gate: The inspection gate

Sheep Gate: The starting point.

3 Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel.² The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zakkur son of Imri built next to them.

³ The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place.⁴ Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired the next section. Next to him Meshullam son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs, and next to him Zadok son of Baana also made repairs.⁵ The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their nobles would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors.^[a]

⁶ The Jeshanah^[b] Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place.⁷ Next to them, repairs were made by men from Gibeon and Mizpah—Melatiah of Gibeon and Jadon of Meronoth—places under the authority of the governor of Trans-Euphrates.⁸ Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the next section; and Hananiah, one of the perfume-makers, made repairs next to that. They restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.⁹ Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section.¹⁰ Adjoining this, Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house, and Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs next to him.¹¹ Malkijah son of

Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. ¹² Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section with the help of his daughters.

¹³ The Valley Gate was repaired by Hanun and the residents of Zanoah. They rebuilt it and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place. They also repaired a thousand cubits^[c] of the wall as far as the Dung Gate.

¹⁴ The Dung Gate was repaired by Malkijah son of Rekab, ruler of the district of Beth Hakkerem. He rebuilt it and put its doors with their bolts and bars in place.

¹⁵ The Fountain Gate was repaired by Shallun son of Kol-Hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah. He rebuilt it, roofing it over and putting its doors and bolts and bars in place. He also repaired the wall of the Pool of Siloam,^[d] by the King's Garden, as far as the steps going down from the City of David. ¹⁶ Beyond him, Nehemiah son of Azbuk, ruler of a half-district of Beth Zur, made repairs up to a point opposite the tombs^[e] of David, as far as the artificial pool and the House of the Heroes.

¹⁷ Next to him, the repairs were made by the Levites under Rehum son of Bani. Beside him, Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah, carried out repairs for his district. ¹⁸ Next to him, the repairs were made by their fellow Levites under Binnui^[f] son of Henadad, ruler of the other half-district of Keilah. ¹⁹ Next to him, Ezer son of Jeshua, ruler of Mizpah, repaired another section, from a point facing the ascent to the armory as far as the angle of the wall. ²⁰ Next to him, Baruch son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the angle to the entrance of the house of Eliashib the high priest. ²¹ Next to him, Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired another section, from the entrance of Eliashib's house to the end of it.

²² The repairs next to him were made by the priests from the surrounding region. ²³ Beyond them, Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs in front of their house; and next to them, Azariah son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, made repairs beside his house. ²⁴ Next to him, Binnui son of Henadad repaired another section, from Azariah's house to the angle and the corner, ²⁵ and Palal son of Uzai worked opposite the angle and the tower projecting from the upper palace near the court of the guard. Next to him, Pedaiah son of Parosh ²⁶ and the temple servants living on the hill of Ophel made repairs up to a point opposite the Water Gate toward the east and the projecting tower. ²⁷ Next to them, the men of Tekoa repaired another section, from the great projecting tower to the wall of Ophel.

²⁸ Above the Horse Gate, the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house. ²⁹ Next to them, Zadok son of Immer made repairs opposite his house. Next to him, Shemaiah son of Shekemiah, the guard at the East Gate, made repairs. ³⁰ Next to him, Hananiah son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. Next to them, Meshullam son of Berekiah made repairs opposite his living quarters. ³¹ Next to him, Malkijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the temple servants and the merchants, opposite the Inspection Gate, and as far as the room above the corner; ³² and between the room above the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and merchants made repairs.

5...He had the faith to rest...

NE 2:11 I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days ¹² I set out during the night with a few men. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

The first activity of Nehemiah upon his arrival was to assess the damage to the present walls. This is what the overall purpose of *this* book is all about – to see God’s plan concerning your present walls and the walls of others in Christ.

You see the CURRENT condition of the walls and you devise a BUILDING PLAN, but more accurately, you *obtain* knowledge of what God already has *devised* for you.

The walls of our city need rebuilding. Walls represent that which keeps the enemy out of the city.

A defenseless wall, a broken down wall represents an area of our life where we are vulnerable to the enemy.

This is a place where we have yet to fortify; it is a place of sin, a place of immaturity, a place we have not overcome and a place of self-will.

For example, if you can lose your joy then the walls surrounding your inner man are

1. Nehemiah ...so it was best to keep everything quiet until the proper time.

2. He had a team of advisors with him...

*PR 15:22 Plans fail for lack of counsel,
but with many advisers they succeed.*

*PR 19:20 Listen to advice and accept instruction,
and in the end you will be wise.*

*PR 20:18 Make plans by seeking advice;
if you **wage war**, obtain guidance.*

7...He had the faith to challenge others to join in on the work...

NE 2:17 Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." ¹⁸ I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me.

They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

052307 let the building begin...

*PR 21:30 There is no **wisdom**, no insight, no plan
that can succeed against the LORD.*

Nehemiah encouraged his workers with three statements...

1. God will give us success...we will succeed despite our failures for God is on our side...he cannot fail
2. We are his servants... it is for us...our allegiance is to God...we are not against men.
3. You are not his servants...and will have nothing to do with the building of the city and nothing in the city nor claim upon the city....it has nothing to do with you...

Donald K. Campbell identified 21 principles of effective leadership that Nehemiah Demonstrated in chapter 2.

"He established a reasonable and attainable goal
 He had a sense of mission
 He was willing to get involved
 He rearranged his priorities in order to accomplish his goal
 He patiently waited for God's timing
 He showed respect to his superior
 He prayed at crucial times
 He made his request with tact and graciousness
 He was well prepared and thought of his needs in advance
 He went through proper channels
 He took time (three days) to rest, pray, and plan
 He investigated the situation firsthand
 He informed others only after he knew the size of the problem
 He identified himself as one with the people
 He set before them a reasonable and attainable goal
 He assured them God was in the project
 He displayed self-confidence in facing obstacles
 He displayed God's confidence in facing obstacles
 He did not argue with opponents
 He was not discouraged by opposition
 He courageously used the authority of his position."

No more talking...work to be done....

God created order in the rebuilding of the walls. Nehemiah allotted to every man a portion of the wall to build upon. "Arise and let us build" is the cry of Nehemiah and it is we who must heed this sound today.

I am responsible for my portion of the wall that God allotted me and you are responsible for your portion of the wall. One plants and one waters is what we are taught in 1Corinthians chapter 3; one man is responsible to lay a foundation in the lives of others and another is called to build upon that foundation.

Desire not another man's portion; desire not any building activity that has not been allotted to you. Hear God's voice in this matter, we **MUST LABOR TOGETHER** in **UNITY**. God will not use exclusively any one person or ministry

Nehemiah described the reconstruction of the walls starting with the Sheep Gate near the city's northeast corner moving counterclockwise. This record honors those who by building helped reestablish Israel in the Promised Land in harmony with God's will (cf.,

1. The workers and their work ch. 3

the stage is set...let the building begin....This section begins with a list mentioning individual leaders and clans and their contributions...reminds us that no work of love performed for the Lord goes unnoticed or forgotten. They may be anonymous to us but never to God. And neither are you.

All those who labored in this good work are listed by name, just as in Romans 16 the Lord takes pleasure in recording the faith and labor of many individuals, such as Priscilla and Aquila who risked their own necks for Paul's life (vv. 3-4), "Mary, who labored much" (v. 6), "Persis who labored much in the Lord" (v. 12). Thus, some stood out specially, others only recorded, but all recognized. The judgment seat of Christ will reveal the work of **all** believers, and some will be rewarded more than others.

According to the maximalist view the two and one-half-mile wall would have enclosed about 220 acres. According to the minimalist view the wall would have been two miles long and enclosed about 90 acres. I think there is better support for the minimalist position. The hill of Ophel (lit. swelling or bulge) was the site between the temple area and the City of David. This is the area that Solomon had broadened and filled in when he built the temple.

NE 3:1 Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel. ² The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zaccur son of Imri built next to them.

Eliashib the high priest is mentioned first in the building, not because he was the most devoted builder, but because of his position, for chapter

- 13:4 tells us that he had been allied with Tobiah, and also
- (ch. 13:28) that one of his sons was married to the daughter of Sanballat.

Besides this, though Eliashib and his brethren built the sheepgate, it was a different man,

Meremoth, who repaired the wall "from the door of the house of Eliashib to the end of the house of Eliashib" (v. 21).

. ²¹ Next to him, Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired another section, from the entrance of Eliashib's house to the end of it.

What a lesson is seen here! A man may be concerned to repair in measure the public character of Christianity, but have little concern for the wall of separation in his family life!

More than this, though it is said they "built the sheep gate; they consecrated it and hung its doors" (v. 1), yet no mention is made of including "its bolts and bars", as is the case with others who built gates (vv. 3,6,13,14,15).

Does this not indicate that Eliashib was not so careful about full separation from the world, but would allow some measure of laxity in this matter? When a leader is like this, how sadly this can affect the entire testimony of God! Nevertheless, scripture credits Eliashib with what good he actually did.

NE 3:3 The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. ⁴ Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired the next section. Next to him Meshullam son of Berekiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs, and next to him Zadok son of Baana also made repairs. ⁵ The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their nobles would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors.

In verse 5 the Tekoites are mentioned as making repairs, but "their nobles did not put their shoulders to the work of the Lord." Did they consider such work to be beneath their dignity? In contrast to this, one of the goldsmiths and one of the perfumers did this manual labor to which they were not accustomed. How good it is that the Lord takes full account of all these things!

NE 3:6 The Jeshanah Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. ⁷ Next to them, repairs were made by men from Gibeon and Mizpah--Melatiah of Gibeon and Jadon of Meronoth--places under the authority of the governor of Trans-Euphrates. ⁸ Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the next section; and Hananiah, one of the perfume-makers, made repairs next to that. They restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. ⁹ Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section. ¹⁰ Adjoining this, Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house, and Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs next to him. ¹¹ Malkijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. ¹² Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section with the help of his daughters.

Verse 12 tells us that not only Shallum, a leader of the half district of Jerusalem, worked in repairing, but also his daughters. Does this not remind us of Paul's words concerning "the women who labored with me in the Gospel" (Phil. 4:3)?

No doubt some were not as careful as others in the work, but the Lord values true diligence in whatever He give us to do, as is surely indicated in

Colossians 3:23, ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

If the Lord Jesus is the Object in whatever work we are called upon to do, would we think of being anything less than wholehearted?

NE 3:13 The Valley Gate was repaired by Hanun and the residents of Zanoah. They rebuilt it and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. They also repaired five hundred yards of the wall as far as the Dung Gate.

*NE 3:14 The Dung Gate was repaired by Malkijah son of Recab, ruler of the district of Beth Hakkerem. **He rebuilt it and put its doors and bolts and bars in place.***

NE 3:15 The Fountain Gate was repaired by Shallun son of Col-Hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah. He rebuilt it, roofing it over and putting its doors and bolts and bars in place. He also repaired the wall of the Pool of Siloam, by the King's Garden, as far as the steps going down from the City of David. ¹⁶ Beyond him, Nehemiah son of Azbuk, ruler of a half-district of Beth Zur, made repairs up to a point opposite the tombs of David, as far as the artificial pool and the House of the Heroes.

NE 3:17 Next to him, the repairs were made by the Levites under Rehum son of Bani. Beside him, Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah, carried out repairs for his district. ¹⁸ Next to him, the repairs were made by their countrymen under Binnui son of Henadad, ruler of the other half-district of Keilah. ¹⁹ Next to him, Ezer son of Jeshua, ruler of Mizpah, repaired another section, from a point facing the ascent to the armory as far as the angle. ²⁰ Next to him, Baruch son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the angle to the entrance of the house of Eliashib the high priest. ²¹ Next to him, Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired another section, from the entrance of Eliashib's house to the end of it.

NE 3:22 The repairs next to him were made by the priests from the surrounding region. ²³ Beyond them, Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs in front of their house; and next to them, Azariah son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, made repairs beside his house. ²⁴ Next to him, Binnui son of Henadad repaired another section, from Azariah's house to the angle

and the corner, ²⁵ and Palal son of Uzai worked opposite the angle and the tower projecting from the upper palace near the court of the guard. Next to him, Pedaiah son of Parosh ²⁶ and the temple servants living on the hill of Ophel made repairs up to a point opposite the Water Gate toward the east and the projecting tower. ²⁷ Next to them, the men of Tekoa repaired another section, from the great projecting tower to the wall of Ophel.

NE 3:28 Above the Horse Gate, the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house. ²⁹ Next to them, Zadok son of Immer made repairs opposite his house. Next to him, Shemaiah son of Shecaniah, the guard at the East Gate, made repairs. ³⁰ Next to him, Hananiah son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. Next to them, Meshullam son of Berekiah made repairs opposite his living quarters. ³¹ Next to him, Malkijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the temple servants and the merchants, opposite the Inspection Gate, and as far as the room above the corner; ³² and between the room above the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and merchants made repairs.

A number of the inhabitants of Jerusalem are said to have made repairs in front of their own houses (vv. 23,28,29,30).

This is a reminder of *1 Timothy 3:5, ⁵ (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)*

It is true, on the other hand, that some Christians are concerned only for their personal and their family responsibilities, and ignore the proper welfare of the church of God.

We have noticed, in contrast to this, that Eliashib repaired the sheep gate, but did not make repairs at his own house. How important it is for us to have a well balanced concern for the spiritual blessing of our own families and at the same time for the true prospering of the assembly of God!

In verse 31 we read again of a goldsmith working, and in verse 32 of both goldsmiths and merchants taking part in the work.

Often it is the poor who engage in the work of the Lord (James 2:5), so that it is the more refreshing when those of means are willing to labor for the Lord.

The opposition to the workers ch. 4

"No leader is exempt from criticism, and his humility will nowhere be seen more clearly than in the manner in which he accepts and reacts to it." - *J. Oswald Sanders*

"Anyone who steps into the arena of leadership must be prepared to pay a price. True leadership exacts a heavy toll on the whole person and the more effective the leadership, the higher the price!" - *Charles Swindoll*

God's will for Nehemiah was to build the wall. He appointed men to various tasks to accomplish that great project. Everyone had a job to do. Shortly thereafter the opposition to the work intensified. God's will didn't allow the wall to be built without opposition ... enter - the critics!

I. THE WORK AND THE PEOPLE FACE OPPOSITION -

Criticism:

Obstacles and opposition are building tools. They present a challenge, and when the challenge is met confidence and inner strength are secured by accomplishing something that once appeared impossible. These obstacles are well and carefully placed in our lives to build and strengthen us.

Sanballat was criticizing God's work! Who was the fool? Tobiah was mocking the God inspired work of one of his servants! (vs. 3) Critics constantly look at situations from a human point of view, they don't stop to think that they may be opposing God's directive will. Criticism is never a good reason to stop the work, criticism will come, you can count on it.

Nehemiah faced it and prayed about it. The human thing to do is to get mad and retaliate. You are never more successful than when you are on your knees in prayer. Nehemiah not only prayed but he stayed with the task at hand, good old fashioned persistence!

"It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; who does actually try to do the deed; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion

and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the worst, if he falls, at least fails while daring greatly.

Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered by failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat." - *Theodore Roosevelt*

Jack Hyles once said, "If someone's kicking you in the seat of the pants you know that you are in front of them."