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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

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**“RISE UP AND BUILD”**

**Nehemiah 3:1-32**

***Nehemiah 3:1 "Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel."***

The rebuilding work in this passage is a reminder that no matter what fell apart in your life, God can rebuild it in less time than it took you to mess it up. These people had been living in Jerusalem for years, but they just never linked up to deal with the wall issue. Nehemiah unified them around a common purpose, and suddenly things were getting done. This gate was called the sheep gate, because it was the gate the sheep were brought through, before sacrificing them at the temple. The sheep gate seemed to be a gate in the eastern wall. It would have been appropriate for the Eliashib the high priest and priests to work on this wall. He served as an over-seer of the work.

***2 Timothy 2:6 “The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.”***

Not everyone wanted the wall built. Nehemiah would give credit to those who did help with the re-building. As soon as the gate was finished, they sanctified it. Thus, they dedicated the Sheep Gate, an action that showed their divine perspective on the work. Whenever people decide they are going to rebuild the community, they must be aware that the most important institution in a community is the church and the most “essential workers” are God’s ministers. The values that must be operating in an area in order for it to survive and for businesses to stay within it, has to be set forth by a moral agency. Society needs a standard, a measuring rod. The church does not replace a bank or a social entity, but it infiltrates and influences them, so they begin to make their decisions based on a proper moral code.

***Matthew 5:13-16***

***13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.***

***14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.***

***15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.***

***16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.***

***Nehemiah 3:2 "And next unto him builded the men of Jericho. And next to them builded Zaccur the son of Imri."***

“And next to him” denotes close proximity. Kingdom work necessitates working closely and orderly. These were men assigned to the northeast corner of the wall. The men of Jericho were commuters, indicating they were willing to travel to accomplish God’s will. Very little else is known of Zaccur, or Imri.

***Nehemiah 3:3 "But the fish gate did the sons of Hassenaah build, who [also] laid the beams thereof, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof."***

The fish gate was in the northern wall. It was very near the gate that is called today, the Damascus gate. The fish were brought in this gate into Jerusalem from the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River. They not only made the gate, but hung it for use, as well. The bars were an extra precaution of locking the gates to keep the enemy out.

***Nehemiah 3:4 "And next unto them repaired Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz. And next unto them repaired Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabeel. And next unto them repaired Zadok the son of Baana."***

***Nehemiah 3:5 "And next unto them the Tekoites repaired; but their nobles put not their necks to the work of their Lord."***

This appears, that these were working on the wall next to the fish gate. Nehemiah called out the wealthy Tekoites who chose to be lazy and did not lift a finger to help. These were the people, and not their leaders, working on the wall and gates. The working people helped with the building. It seemed the upper class did not try to stop the others from helping. They just did not work themselves.

***Nehemiah 3:6 "Moreover the old gate repaired Jehoiada the son of Paseah, and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah; they laid the beams thereof, and set up the doors thereof, and the locks thereof, and the bars thereof."***

This is, possibly, speaking of the Damascus gate. This gate appeared to be still standing and was repaired to fit in with the wall. Again, they fixed it where it could be barred and locked in the event they were attacked.

***Nehemiah 3:7 "And next unto them repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite, and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon, and of Mizpah, unto the throne of the governor on this side the river."***

It appears, that each group of people repaired the wall and gate that led to the town they lived in. Gibeon and Mizpay were north of the city of Jerusalem, so their people repaired the north wall and gate.

***Nehemiah 3:8 "Next unto him repaired Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, of the goldsmiths. Next unto him also repaired Hananiah the son of [one of] the apothecaries, and they fortified Jerusalem unto the broad wall."***

Even the goldsmith and the perfumer made repairs! Though these men may not have been used to such physical labor, they were willing to use their time and energy to make a difference in the community process. Similarly, when there is a common agenda, you have to take some of your time and energy and get busy with the greater need. Apothecaries made perfume and ointment. The repairs did not seem to be as extensive on this side of the wall. To fortify is to strengthen something that is already there. This, possibly, means the wall was not as destroyed here, and they just worked on it and made it stronger.

***Nehemiah 3:9 "And next unto them repaired Rephaiah the son of Hur, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem."***

***Nehemiah 3:10 "And next unto them repaired Jedaiah the son of Harumaph, even over against his house. And next unto him repaired Hattush the son of Hashabniah."***

***Nehemiah 3:11 "Malchijah the son of Harim, and Hashub the son of Pahath-moab, repaired the other piece, and the tower of the furnaces."***

These were people who actually lived within the city limits of Jerusalem. It would be of great advantage to them personally to have the wall and gates repaired. Again, it appears this repair was done near their home. They were wanting to help build the wall to help everyone but would be personally benefited by protecting their own homes. This seems to be the piece of the wall that was not repaired by those mentioned in verses 10 and 11. Don’t miss that the ruler of half the district of Jerusalem made repairs. Some people have the idea, especially if they’re considered somebodies in the community, that a church is blessed because they joined. Let us get this straight: you are the privileged one when you are granted membership, by the grace of God, in his church. It is not because of who we are but because the cross of Christ has enough grace that we are let in.

***Nehemiah 3:12 "And next unto him repaired Shallum the son of Halohesh, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem, he and his daughters."***

It appears, that Rephaiah and Shallum each ruled half of Jerusalem. Shallum’s daughters made repairs, too. He, possibly, had no sons, so his daughters worked with him on the repair. God has called women in his kingdom to have strategic positions of responsibility that must be acknowledged and respected. The strengths of godly women are not to be ignored or bypassed but utilized. Similarly, if your wife has a degree or a skill in a particular field, you’re foolish if you don’t recognize, honor, and promote that skill, so that your family benefits.

***Nehemiah 3:13 "The valley gate repaired Hanun, and the inhabitants of Zanoah; they built it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof, and a thousand cubits on the wall unto the dung gate."***

The 1,000 cubits means 1,500 feet. This would be a very large area for repair. They, also, repaired the valley gate. In this instance it appears, the inhabitants of Zanoah did the work. They were located on the west side of Jerusalem. There were, probably, a large number of people working on the gate and wall, making it possible for them to repair such a long span.

***Nehemiah 3:14 "But the dung gate repaired Malchiah the son of Rechab, the ruler of part of Beth-haccerem; he built it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof."***

***Nehemiah 3:15 "But the gate of the fountain repaired Shallun the son of Col-hozeh, the ruler of part of Mizpah; he built it, and covered it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof, and the wall of the pool of Siloah by the king's garden, and unto the stairs that go down from the city of David."***

This was a district located close to Tekoah. Again, they built the gate and fixed it to be locked in case of war. Shallum actually ruled the district around Mizpah. Again, each of them chose a portion of the wall and a gate that was on the side their area was located on. Perhaps, it took less trouble to get to the work, since it was nearby. This fountain furnished water for the city in case of a siege. The king's garden had been watered by this fountain. The stairs could be speaking of those that had led to the temple at one time.

***Nehemiah 3:16 "After him repaired Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, the ruler of the half part of Beth-zur, unto [the place] over against the sepulchres of David, and to the pool that was made, and unto the house of the mighty."***

***Nehemiah 3:17 "After him repaired the Levites, Rehum the son of Bani. Next unto him repaired Hashabiah, the ruler of the half part of Keilah, in his part."***

***Nehemiah 3:18 "After him repaired their brethren, Bavai the son of Henadad, the ruler of the half part of Keilah."***

This is another Nehemiah. "Beth-zur" means house of the rock. It is located between Hebron and Jerusalem. This is one specific area that Nehemiah had wanted to repair, because of the sepulchres. We see, from this, that nearly every class of people had a few who helped with the repairs. We can, also, see that not everyone helped. Again, Keilah, here, is not speaking of a city, but of a region. Verses 17 and 18 are companions. Bavai ruled one half of the region and Hashabiah the other half.

***Nehemiah 3:19 "And next to him repaired Ezer the son of Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah, another piece over against the going up to the armoury at the turning [of the wall]."***

We read earlier of the two who ruled one half each of Mizpah. Perhaps, this is speaking of the town, here, and not the region. The portion of the wall that he repaired was the northwestern angle. It appears in each of these corners, there was a place to easily get fighting gear. This is, possibly, what this is speaking of as the armory.

***Nehemiah 3:20 "After him Baruch the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired the other piece, from the turning [of the wall] unto the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest."***

It appears, that Baruch was set aside as having a burning desire to finish the wall, as Nehemiah wanted to finish it. The word "earnestly" is the key to this. This is the second section that he had worked on. The house of the high priest had to be near the wall. The high priest and the priests had worked on the eastern wall. The house of the high priest was, probably, on the eastern wall somewhere. "Eliashib" means God will restore.

***Nehemiah 3:21 "After him repaired Meremoth the son of Urijah the son of Koz another piece, from the door of the house of Eliashib even to the end of the house of Eliashib."***

***Nehemiah 3:18 "After him repaired their brethren, Bavai the son of Henadad, the ruler of the half part of Keilah."***

***Nehemiah 3:22 "And after him repaired the priests, the men of the plain."***

Meremoth was a priest of a family of priests. He worked on the wall that was adjacent to the house of the high priest. This is speaking of the priests who settled in the Jordan valley.

***Nehemiah 3:23 "After him repaired Benjamin and Hashub over against their house. After him repaired Azariah the son of Maaseiah the son of Ananiah by his house."***

Apparently, there were bachelors on the wall because Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs opposite their house. The key here is that they weren’t working on their houses but their house. Even though they were single, they found their place on the wall. This Azariah was the same one who helped Ezra teach the law. He was a Levite, as were all of the others mentioned in this verse. They had houses near the house of the high priest, and they repaired the portion of the wall near their houses.

***Nehemiah 3:24 "After him repaired Binnui the son of Henadad another piece, from the house of Azariah unto the turning [of the wall], even unto the corner."***

***Nehemiah 3:25 "Palal the son of Uzai, over against the turning [of the wall], and the tower which lieth out from the king's high house, that [was] by the court of the prison. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh."***

This is speaking of an area of the wall from the house of Azariah to the corner of the wall. Binnui is believed by some to be the Levite Bavai. The king's house, here, is speaking of the old palace of David. Each palace had its own prison. This would have been in the court of the palace.

***Nehemiah 3:26 "Moreover the Nethinims dwelt in Ophel, unto [the place] over against the water gate toward the east, and the tower that lieth out."***

We remember, that the Nethinims did servile work in the temple. They would have lived close to the wall, as well as the priests. Ophel was a ridge in the city of Jerusalem. It actually was located toward the Kidron valley on the edge of town. The water gate was speaking of the gate the water drained away from the temple area. There was a tower on each corner of the wall to help see intruders from a distance before they got to the wall.

***Nehemiah 3:27 "After them the Tekoites repaired another piece, over against the great tower that lieth out, even unto the wall of Ophel."***

The Tekoites started their repairs at the spot where the Nethinims had stopped. It seemed, all of these were spoken of as they took up the repairs, where the other stopped. This was going all around the city wall explaining, as they came to them.

***Nehemiah 3:28 "From above the horse gate repaired the priests, every one over against his house."***

***Nehemiah 3:29 "After them repaired Zadok the son of Immer over against his house. After him repaired also Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the east gate."***

The priests made repairs each opposite his own house. Why? First, for the sake of time: they did not have far to go, so they could give more time to getting the work done. Second, this would ensure excellence: if a man is fixing a wall outside of his home, it will be a well-fixed wall. Third, this allowed whole families to get involved. Thus, Nehemiah masterfully gave his craftsman personal investments in the work. This gate was in the eastern wall, where horses could enter the city. This would have been near the palace for the convenience of seeing David. Zadok was a priest. Shemaiah was a priest, also. His distinction was that he was a keeper of the east gate.

***Nehemiah 3:30 "After him repaired Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph, another piece. After him repaired Meshullam the son of Berechiah over against his chamber."***

***Nehemiah 3:31 "After him repaired Malchiah the goldsmith's son unto the place of the Nethinims, and of the merchants, over against the gate Miphkad, and to the going up of the corner."***

***Nehemiah 3:32 "And between the going up of the corner unto the sheep gate repaired the goldsmiths and the merchants."***

“After them” “And beside him” “Next to him” are all phrases suggesting solidarity and even quality control. These were, possibly, chief men who worked on the wall. These were not the same as the verses we just read, who repaired the wall near their own houses. These seemed not to have a house near the wall. The goldsmith would be a very respected man in the community. He worked on the eastern wall near the corner. These were not priests, or high government officials. They were just average citizens who were respected, because of their businesses. Within the church, sometimes you may miss a ministry opportunity, but as soon as you see it, you have to plug it by inviting someone else to come alongside to meet that need. We as believers have all kinds of personalities and all kinds of skills, but many of us have never kingdomized them. God wants you to use your spiritual gift to link up with other Christians and accomplish his divine agenda.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who builded the sheep gate.
2. What portion of the building did the high priest, probably, do?
3. Why was the gate called the sheep gate?
4. Who built the fish gate?
5. Why was it called the fish gate?
6. What were the bars on the gate for?
7. Who, of the Tekoites, did not work on their portion of the gate?
8. Verse 6 is, possibly, speaking of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gate.
9. Apothecaries made \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
10. Rephaiah ruled the half part of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
11. How would some of the people be personally benefited by the repair of the wall?
12. Who ruled the other half of Jeruslaem?
13. 1,000 cubits is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ feet.
14. Who repaired the dung gate?
15. What does "Beth-zur" mean?
16. Who had a burning desire to finish the wall, as Nehemiah had?
17. Who was Meremoth?
18. Who helped Ezra teach the law?
19. Where were the priests' houses located?
20. The king's house, in verse 25, is speaking of what?
21. The Nethinims did \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ work in the temple.
22. Who was keeper of the east gate?
23. Who was the goldsmith's son?