

Nehemiah Chapter 3 — Everyone Has a Place in the Work

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford American English Bible

Introduction

At first glance, Nehemiah Chapter 3 can seem like one of the less exciting chapters in the Bible.

It contains a long list of names, families, occupations, leaders, priests, craftsmen, merchants, women, and different sections of Jerusalem's wall. One name follows another, and one section follows another.

But there is a powerful spiritual lesson hidden in this chapter:

God knows the names of the people who faithfully do the work.

Nehemiah 2 ended with the people declaring:

“Let’s rise up and build!”

Nehemiah 3 shows them actually doing it.

Chapter 2 gives us the **vision**.

Chapter 3 gives us the **workers**.

Chapter 2 tells us **what needed to be done**.

Chapter 3 tells us **who did it**.

This chapter teaches us about teamwork, service, leadership, diligence, responsibility, unity, and the importance of faithfully repairing whatever part of God's work He has placed before us.

The wall was enormous.

No one person could rebuild it alone.

But section by section, family by family, gate by gate, and person by person, the work moved forward.

I. THE HIGH PRIEST STARTS THE WORK

Nehemiah 3:1 — Eliashib and the Sheep Gate

“Then Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests started rebuilding the Sheep Gate. They consecrated it and set up its doors. They continued their work as far as the Tower of the Hundred and consecrated that too, as well as the Tower of Hananel.”

It is significant that the chapter begins with the high priest.

Eliashib was not standing apart from the work.

He was working.

He was not merely telling others what to do.

He was participating.

Cross References

John 5:2

"Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades."

Nehemiah 12:39

"...and over the Gate of Ephraim, the Jeshanah Gate, the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate. At the Gate of the Guard they stopped."

Jeremiah 31:38

"'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when this city will be rebuilt for me from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate.'"

The Sheep Gate

The Sheep Gate was especially significant because sheep were brought through this area toward the temple.

The chapter begins at a gate associated with worship.

And the priests **consecrated** the gate.

That teaches us something important:

The work of God should be approached as an act of worship.

They were not merely moving stones.

They were serving God.

Leadership Lesson

A leader should never ask people to do something he or she is unwilling to do.

Eliashib led by participation.

II. GOD USES ORDINARY PEOPLE

Nehemiah 3:2 — The Men of Jericho

“The men of Jericho built next to him, and next to them Zaccur son of Imri built.”

The work immediately expands.

The men of Jericho participate.

Zaccur participates.

Cross References

Ezra 2:34

"The men of Jericho, 345."

Joshua 6:26

"At that time Joshua oath-bound them: 'Cursed before the Lord is the one who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho: At the cost of his firstborn son he will lay its foundations; at the cost of his youngest he will set up its gates.'"

Nehemiah 7:36

"The men of Jericho, 345."

The rebuilding was not limited to people from Jerusalem.

People came together from different places.

Spiritual Principle

God's work often requires people from different backgrounds working toward one purpose.

You may not have the same background as someone else.

You may not have the same occupation.

You may not have the same gifts.

But you can still have the same mission.

III. EVERY SECTION MATTERS

Nehemiah 3:3 — The Fish Gate

“The Fish Gate was built by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and installed its doors, bolts, and bars.”

The sons of Hassenaah worked on the Fish Gate.

They did not build the entire wall.

They built their section.

Cross References

2 Chronicles 33:14

"Afterward he built an outer wall for the City of David west of Gihon, in the valley, and for the entrance through the Fish Gate, and carried it around Ophel, and raised it to a very great height. He also put military commanders in all the fortified cities of Judah."

Zephaniah 1:10

"'On that day,' declares the Lord, 'a cry will go up from the Fish Gate, a wailing from the New Quarter, and a loud crash from the hills.'"

Nehemiah 12:39

"...and over the Gate of Ephraim, the Jeshanah Gate, the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate. At the Gate of the Guard they stopped."

A Simple but Powerful Lesson

Faithfulness does not require you to do everything.

It requires you to faithfully do your part.

Sometimes we become discouraged because we compare our assignment with someone else's.

But God does not ask:

"Why didn't you build their section?"

He asks:

"Did you faithfully build yours?"

IV. FAITHFUL WORK IS OFTEN SHARED WORK

Nehemiah 3:4 — Meremoth, Meshullam, and Zadok

"Meremoth son of Uriah and grandson of Hakkoz repaired the next section. Next to him was Meshullam son of Berekiah, grandson of Meshezabel. Then came Zadok son of Baana."

Several men worked side by side.

One completed his section.

Another continued beside him.

Then another followed.

Cross References

Ezra 8:33

"On the fourth day, in the house of our God, we weighed out the silver and gold and the sacred articles into the hands of Meremoth son of Uriah the priest. Eleazar son of Phinehas was with him, and also the Levites Jozabad son of Jeshua and Noadiah son of Binnui."

Nehemiah 6:18

"For many in Judah were under oath to him, since he was son-in-law to Shekaniah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah."

Ezra 2:2

"...who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum and Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:"

Principle

The wall was rebuilt **side by side**.

That is a picture of Christian ministry.

One person may preach.

Another may teach.

Another may encourage.

Another may give.

Another may pray.

Another may serve quietly.

Another may repair what is broken.

Different assignments.

One mission.

V. NOT EVERYONE WILL HAVE THE SAME HEART FOR THE WORK

Nehemiah 3:5 — The Nobles of Tekoa

“The people from Tekoa made repairs, but their nobles refused to put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors.”

This verse is a warning.

The people of Tekoa worked.

But their nobles refused.

Cross References

Amos 1:1

"The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa—the vision he saw concerning Israel two years before the earthquake, when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash was king of Israel."

Nehemiah 3:27

"Next to them, the men of Tekoa repaired another section, from the great projecting tower to the wall of Ophel."

Judges 5:23

"'Curse Meroz,' said the angel of the Lord. 'Curse its people bitterly, because they did not come to help the Lord, to help the Lord against the mighty.'"

There is an interesting contrast:

The people worked.

Their nobles did not.

Leadership Lesson

Position does not automatically produce faithfulness.

A title does not guarantee commitment.

Influence does not equal service.

Spiritual Principle

Never let the refusal of a few faithful people become an excuse for the obedience of many.

The nobles refused.

The work continued.

VI. THE OLD GATE — RESTORING WHAT WAS OLD

Nehemiah 3:6 — The Old Gate

“The Old Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams and installed its doors, bolts, and bars.”

The Old Gate was restored.

Cross References

Nehemiah 12:39

They marched past the Ephraim Gate, the Old City Gate, and the Fish Gate, passed the Hananel and Hundred towers, and went as far as the Sheep Gate before finally stopping at the Guard Gate.

2 Kings 22:14

So Hilkiah the priest, along with Ahikam, Acbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah, went to talk to the prophet Huldah. She was living in Jerusalem's New District, and her husband Shallum—the son of Tikvah and grandson of Harhas—was in charge of the royal wardrobe.

Zephaniah 1:10

“When that day comes,” says the Lord, “you’ll hear screaming coming from the Fish Gate, wailing from the New District, and a massive crashing sound echoing off the hills.”

Spiritual Application

The word **old** does not necessarily mean worthless.

Some things need to be restored rather than discarded.

The church must be careful not to confuse:

biblical truth

with

human tradition.

We should preserve what Scripture teaches while remaining willing to repair what human failure has damaged.

VII. PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT REGIONS JOINED THE WORK

Nehemiah 3:7 — Gibeon and Mizpah

“Next to them worked Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite, men from Gibeon and Mizpah, who were working under the authority of the governor of the province west of the Euphrates River.”

Cross References

Joshua 9:3

When the people living in Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, they decided to resort to a clever trick.

Joshua 18:26

Mizpah, Chephirah, Mozah, Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah, Zelah, Haeleph, the Jebusite city (that is, Jerusalem), Gibeah, and Kiriath made up fourteen cities, along with their surrounding villages. This was the territory given to the clans of the tribe of Benjamin.

Nehemiah 3:19

Ezer son of Jeshua, the leader of Mizpah, repaired the next section of the wall, working across from the ascent to the armory at the angle of the wall.

Lesson

God can bring people together who would otherwise have little reason to work side by side.

A common purpose can unite people.

VIII. GOD USES PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT OCCUPATIONS

Nehemiah 3:8 — A Goldsmith and a Perfume-Maker

“Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the next section. Hananiah, a perfume-maker, worked next to him. They restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.”

Think about the occupations mentioned:

Goldsmith.

Perfume-maker.

Neither profession sounds like construction.

Yet they built.

Cross References

Exodus 31:3

I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him extraordinary skill, intelligence, knowledge, and craftsmanship for every kind of work.

Nehemiah 12:38

The second choir went off to the left, and I followed them along with half of the people. We walked along the top of the wall, past the Tower of the Ovens, all the way to the Broad Wall.

2 Chronicles 25:23

King Joash of Israel captured King Amaziah of Judah at Beth-shemesh and brought him back to Jerusalem. Then Joash tore down a four-hundred-foot section of Jerusalem's wall, running all the way from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate.

Spiritual Principle

God can use the skills you already possess for purposes beyond your ordinary occupation.

You may think:

“I’m just a businessman.”

God may use your business skills.

“I’m just a teacher.”

God may use your teaching.

“I’m just a craftsman.”

God may use your hands.

“I’m just a homemaker.”

God can use your influence in your family.

The question is not:

“What is my title?”

The question is:

“How can I use what God has given me for His glory?”

IX. LEADERS MUST WORK TOO

Nehemiah 3:9 — Rephaiah, Ruler of Half the District

“Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section.”

A ruler worked on the wall.

Cross References

Exodus 17:10

So Joshua followed Moses' instructions and went out to fight the Amalekites, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

Nehemiah 3:12

Shallum son of Hallohesh, who ruled over the other half-district of Jerusalem, worked on the next section of the wall along with his daughters.

1 Chronicles 2:19

When Azubah died, Caleb married Ephrath, and she gave birth to his son Hur.

Leadership Principle

Biblical leadership is demonstrated through service.

A leader who only gives orders may have authority.

A leader who serves earns influence.

X. WORKING CLOSE TO HOME

Nehemiah 3:10 — Repairing the Wall Across from His House

“Jedaiah son of Harumaph repaired the wall across from his own house. Next to him, Hattush son of Hashabneiah worked.”

Jedaiah repaired the section near his home.

This principle appears repeatedly in the chapter.

Cross References

Ezra 2:36

The priests who returned included the descendants of Jedaiah, from the family line of Jeshua, totaling 973 people.

1 Chronicles 3:22

The descendants of Shecaniah were Shemaiah and his six sons: Hattush, Igal, Bariah, Neariah, and Shaphat.

Nehemiah 3:23

Right past them, Benjamin and Hasshub handled the repairs directly across from their own house, and Azariah son of Maaseiah (the grandson of Ananiah) fixed the section next to his home.

Powerful Application

Restoration often begins close to home.

Before we attempt to change the entire world, we should examine:

- Our homes.
- Our marriages.
- Our families.
- Our character.
- Our prayer lives.
- Our relationships.
- Our personal walk with God.

You cannot effectively rebuild the community while refusing to address the ruins inside your own house.

XI. THE TOWER OF THE OVENS

Nehemiah 3:11 — Malchijah and Hasshub

“Malchijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section, including the Tower of the Ovens.”

Cross References

Ezra 2:6

From the family line of Pahath-Moab—through the descendants of Jeshua and Joab—2,812 people returned.

Ezra 10:31

From the family of Harim: Eliezer, Isshijah, Malkijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon,

Nehemiah 3:19

Ezer son of Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah, repaired the next section, right across from the ascent to the armory up to the angle in the wall.

Every section needed attention.

Lesson

There are no insignificant assignments in God's work when they are done faithfully.

XII. WOMEN PARTICIPATED IN THE WORK

Nehemiah 3:12 — Shallum and His Daughters

“Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of the other half of the district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section with the help of his daughters.”

This verse deserves special attention.

Shallum's daughters participated in the rebuilding.

Cross References

Nehemiah 3:9

Rephaiah son of Hur, who was in charge of half the district of Jerusalem, carried out repairs right next to them.

Numbers 27:1

The daughters of Zelophehad—Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah—came forward. They belonged to the clans of Manasseh, who was the son of Joseph.

Nehemiah 3:16

Past him, Nehemiah son of Azbuk, the ruler of half the Beth-zur district, made repairs all the way to a point opposite the tombs of David, as far as the artificial pool and the House of the Warriors.

Spiritual Principle

God sees and values willing servants who participate in His work.

The daughters were not mentioned merely as spectators.

They were workers.

Their contribution mattered.

XIII. A LONG SECTION OF WALL

Nehemiah 3:13 — The Valley Gate

“Hanun and the people of Zanoah rebuilt the Valley Gate. They installed its doors, bolts, and bars and repaired the wall for 1,000 cubits to the Dung Gate.”

This was a significant section.

Cross References

Nehemiah 2:13

Under the cover of night, I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, carefully inspecting Jerusalem's broken-down walls and burned-out gates.

2 Chronicles 26:9

Uzziah strengthened Jerusalem's defenses by building fortified towers at the Corner Gate, the Valley Gate, and the angle of the wall.

Joshua 15:34

Zanoah, En-gannim, Tappuah, and Enam were also among the towns located in the lowland territory of Judah.

Lesson

Some people receive short assignments.

Others receive enormous assignments.

Both are valuable.

Do not compare assignments.

Faithfulness matters more than visibility.

XIV. THE DUNG GATE

Nehemiah 3:14 — Malchijah Rebuilds the Dung Gate

“Malchijah son of Recab, ruler of the district of Beth Hakkerem, rebuilt the Dung Gate. He installed its doors, bolts, and bars.”

Cross References

Jeremiah 6:1

Run for cover, people of Benjamin! Flee from Jerusalem! Blow the ram's horn in Tekoa and light a warning fire over Beth Hakkerem, because disaster and destruction are threatening from the north.

Nehemiah 12:31

I brought the leaders of Judah up onto the wall and assigned two large choirs to give thanks. One choir went to the right along the top of the wall toward the Dung Gate.

Jeremiah 35:6

But they answered, “We don't drink wine, because our ancestor Jehonadab son of Rekab commanded us: ‘Neither you nor your descendants must ever drink wine.’”

The name of the gate may not sound impressive.

But somebody had to rebuild it.

Application

Not every ministry assignment will be glamorous.

Some work is visible.

Some work is unpleasant.

Some work receives applause.

Some work receives little recognition.

But God sees all faithful service.

XV. THE FOUNTAIN GATE AND THE WATER SUPPLY

Nehemiah 3:15 — Shallun Repairs the Fountain Gate

“Shallun son of Col-Hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate. He rebuilt it, roofed it, and installed its doors, bolts, and bars. He also repaired the wall by the Pool of Siloam near the King’s Garden and the stairs that go down from the City of David.”

Cross References

Nehemiah 2:14

Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King’s Pool, but there wasn’t enough space for the donkey I was riding to squeeze through.

John 9:7

Jesus told him, “Go wash yourself in the Pool of Siloam” (which means “Sent”). So the man went, washed his face, and came back able to see.

2 Kings 25:4

When the city walls were breached, all the soldiers fled by night through the gate between the two walls near the king’s garden, even though the Babylonians had surrounded the entire city.

Spiritual Reflection

Water frequently becomes an image of life and cleansing throughout Scripture.

Jesus later used the Pool of Siloam in a miracle recorded in John 9.

The rebuilt infrastructure would serve the city for generations.

Lesson

Faithful work today may bless people you will never meet.

You may never see the full impact of what you build.

XVI. PEOPLE REBUILT NEAR IMPORTANT PLACES

Nehemiah 3:16 — The Tombs of David

“Nehemiah son of Azbuk, ruler of half the district of Beth Zur, repaired the wall to a point across from the tombs of David, as far as the artificial pool and the house of the warriors.”

Cross References

1 Kings 2:10

Then David died and was buried alongside his ancestors in the City of David.

2 Chronicles 11:7

Rehoboam built up and fortified several cities throughout Judah, including Bethlehem, Etam, and Beth-zur.

2 Samuel 23:8

These are the names of David's top warriors: Josheb-basshebeth the Tahchemonite, who was the chief of the Three. He killed eight hundred men in a single battle using his spear.

The wall surrounded places of historical importance.

Lesson

Rebuilding is connected with remembering.

God's people were restoring a city that carried their history.

XVII. THE LEVITES JOIN THE BUILDERS

Nehemiah 3:17–18 — Levites at Work

“Next to him, the Levites made repairs under Rehum son of Bani. Beside him was Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah, who supervised the work in his district.”

“Then their fellow Levites, under Binnui son of Henadad, ruler of the other half of Keilah, made repairs.”

Cross References

1 Samuel 23:1

David was told, “Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and looting the threshing floors.”

Nehemiah 10:9

The Levites who signed were Jeshua son of Azaniah, Binnui of the family of Henadad, and Kadmiel.

Ezra 2:40

The Levites who returned included the descendants of Jeshua and Kadmiel, through the family line of Hodaviah, totaling 74 people.

Ezra 3:9

Jeshua, his sons, and his brothers, along with Kadmiel and his sons (descendants of Yehudah), joined together with the family of Henadad and their sons and brothers—all Levites—to supervise the workers rebuilding the house of God.

Important Principle

The Levites had spiritual responsibilities.

But spiritual service did not make them unwilling to perform practical work.

Application

Sometimes people want to separate:

“spiritual work”

from

“practical work.”

But Scripture often brings them together.

Cleaning.

Building.

Organizing.

Teaching.

Praying.

Giving.

Serving.

All can become acts of worship when done for God.

XVIII. GOD USES PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS OF AUTHORITY

Nehemiah 3:19 — Ezer Repairs Another Section

“Next to him, Ezer son of Jeshua, ruler of Mizpah, repaired another section, opposite the ascent to the armory at the angle of the wall.”

Cross References

Nehemiah 3:7

Next to them, Melatiah from Gibeon and Jadon from Meronoth repaired the wall, along with the men of Gibeon and Mizpah, who were under the authority of the governor of the province West of the Euphrates.

1 Chronicles 12:33

From the tribe of Zebulun, there were 50,000 experienced, fully equipped soldiers ready for battle, completely devoted to David with undivided loyalty.

Nehemiah 3:20

Next to him, Baruch son of Zabbai worked with great enthusiasm to repair another section, extending from the angle in the wall to the entrance of the house of Eliashib the high priest.

The chapter repeatedly shows people of different positions working together.

Principle

God's work is bigger than one person's title.

A ruler and an ordinary worker can stand next to one another in the same mission.

XIX. BARUCH WORKED WITH GREAT ZEAL

Nehemiah 3:20 — “With Great Zeal”

“Baruch son of Zabbai worked with great zeal and repaired another section, from the angle to the entrance of the house of Eliashib the high priest.”

This is one of the most important verses in the chapter.

Baruch did not merely work.

He worked:

“with great zeal.”

Cross References

Jeremiah 32:12

I handed over the purchase deed to Baruch son of Neriah (the grandson of Mahseiah) right in front of my cousin Hanamel, the witnesses who had signed the deed, and all the Judeans sitting in the courtyard of the guard.

Nehemiah 3:1

Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests got to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it, set its doors in place, and continued rebuilding as far as the Tower of the Hundred and the Tower of Hananel.

Nehemiah 13:4

Before this happened, Eliashib the priest had been put in charge of the storerooms in the house of our God. Because he was closely associated with Tobiah,

Spiritual Principle

God notices the attitude with which we serve.

Two people can perform the same task.

One may complain.

The other may work with joy.

One may do the minimum.

The other may give everything.

God sees the heart.

Question

If your service were described in one phrase, would it be:

“with great zeal”

or

“because I had to”?

XX. MEREMOTH CONTINUES HIS WORK

Nehemiah 3:21

“Meremoth son of Uriah and grandson of Hakkoz repaired another section from the entrance of Eliashib’s house to the end of it.”

Cross References

Nehemiah 3:4

Next to them, Meremoth son of Uriah (the grandson of Hakkoz) made repairs. Next to him was Meshullam son of Berekiah (the grandson of Meshezabel), and next to Meshullam was Zadok son of Baana.

Ezra 8:33

On the fourth day, in the house of our God, we weighed out the silver, the gold, and the sacred equipment into the hands of the priest Meremoth son of Uriah.

Nehemiah 3:1

Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests got to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it, set its doors in place, and continued rebuilding as far as the Tower of the Hundred and the Tower of Hananel.

Lesson

Some servants will have more than one assignment.

When the first task is finished, another may be placed before them.

Principle

Faithfulness in one assignment prepares you for another.

XXI. PRIESTS FROM THE SURROUNDING REGION

Nehemiah 3:22

“The priests from the surrounding region made repairs next.”

Cross References

Genesis 13:12

Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and moved his tent as far as Sodom.

1 Kings 7:46

The king had these items cast in clay molds in the plain of the Jordan River, between Succoth and Zarethan.

Nehemiah 3:1

Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests got to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it, set its doors in place, and continued rebuilding as far as the Tower of the Hundred and the Tower of Hananel.

The priests were not confined to religious ceremonies.

They helped restore the city.

Lesson

Ministry includes both sacred responsibility and practical service.

XXII. REPAIRING THE WALL IN FRONT OF YOUR HOUSE

Nehemiah 3:23 — Benjamin and Hasshub

“Benjamin and Hasshub repaired the wall in front of their house. Azariah son of Maaseiah and grandson of Ananiah repaired the section next to his house.”

This repeats a theme already introduced.

Cross References

Nehemiah 3:10

Next to them, Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs directly across from his own house, and next to him, Hattush son of Hashabneiah worked on the next section.

Nehemiah 3:28

Above the Horse Gate, the priests made repairs, with each one fixing the section directly across from his own house.

Nehemiah 3:29

Next to them, Zadok son of Immer repaired the section across from his own home, and past him, Shemaiah son of Shecaniah, the guard of the East Gate, made repairs.

Spiritual Application

The first mission field is often our own home.

Before asking:

“How can I change the world?”

we should ask:

“What needs to be rebuilt in my own house?”

What needs rebuilding?

- Prayer?
- Communication?
- Trust?
- Forgiveness?
- Biblical instruction?
- Family worship?
- Integrity?
- Time together?

Principle

Start where God has already placed you.

XXIII. THE WORK CONTINUES

Nehemiah 3:24–25

Binnui, Palal, and Pedaiah continue repairing additional sections.

The names keep coming.

The sections keep connecting.

Cross References

Nehemiah 3:18

Next to him, their fellow Levites made repairs under the leadership of Binnui son of Henadad, ruler of half the district of Keilah.

Ezra 2:10

From the family line of Bani, 642 descendants returned.

Jeremiah 32:2

At that time, the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was confined in the courtyard of the guard at the royal palace of Judah.

2 Chronicles 26:9

Uzziah built fortified towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, the Valley Gate, and the angle of the wall, and he reinforced them.

Lesson

The work was progressing because people kept showing up.

There was no single dramatic moment.

There were thousands of ordinary acts of faithfulness.

XXIV. THE TEMPLE SERVANTS PARTICIPATE

Nehemiah 3:26 — The Temple Servants

“The temple servants living on the hill of Ophel repaired to a point opposite the Water Gate on the east and the projecting tower.”

Cross References

Ezra 2:43

The temple servants who returned included the descendants of Ziha, Hasupha, and Tabbaoth.

2 Chronicles 27:3

Jotham rebuilt the Upper Gate of the house of the Lord, and he did extensive construction work on the wall at the hill of Ophel.

Nehemiah 8:1

All the people gathered together as one body in the open square in front of the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel.

Spiritual Principle

Even people with humble positions were given a place in the work.

God's kingdom does not operate according to worldly status.

Remember

The size of your position does not determine the value of your service.

XXV. TEKOA WORKS AGAIN

Nehemiah 3:27 — The People of Tekoa

“Next to them, the people from Tekoa repaired another section, from the great projecting tower to the wall of Ophel.”

Cross References

Nehemiah 3:5

Next to them, the men of Tekoa made repairs, but their nobles refused to lift a finger to support the work of their supervisors.

Amos 1:1

These are the words of Amos, one of the shepherd-farmers from Tekoa. He saw these visions concerning Israel two years before the earthquake, during the reigns of King Uzziah of Judah and King Jeroboam son of Jehoash of Israel.

Nehemiah 3:26

and the temple servants who lived on the hill of Ophel made repairs as far as the area across from the Water Gate toward the east, up to the projecting tower.

Here we see something interesting.

The **people of Tekoa** worked even though their nobles did not.

Powerful Lesson

The failure of some leaders does not require the failure of everyone.

Do not say:

“If they won't do it, neither will I.”

Instead say:

“I will be faithful to God regardless of what others choose.”

XXVI. PRIESTS REPAIR THEIR OWN SECTIONS

Nehemiah 3:28 — The Horse Gate

“Above the Horse Gate, the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house.”

Cross References

Jeremiah 31:40

The entire valley of dead bodies and ashes, along with all the terraces out to the Kidron Valley as far as the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, will be holy to the Lord. It will never again be uprooted or destroyed.

2 Kings 11:16

So they seized her, and as she reached the place where horses enter the palace grounds, she was put to death there.

Nehemiah 3:1

Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests got to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it, set its doors in place, and continued rebuilding as far as the Tower of the Hundred and the Tower of Hananel.

Again, the priests are working.

Lesson

Spiritual leadership must be connected to practical obedience.

XXVII. ZADOK REPAIRS HIS SECTION

Nehemiah 3:29 — The East Gate

“Zadok son of Immer made repairs opposite his house. Next to him was Shemaiah son of Shekaniah, the keeper of the East Gate.”

Cross References

Ezra 2:37

From the descendants of Immer: 1,052 people returned.

1 Chronicles 9:21

Zechariah son of Meshelemiah was the gatekeeper responsible for guarding the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.

Nehemiah 3:28

Above the Horse Gate, the priests made repairs, with each one fixing the section directly across from his own home.

There was responsibility both for the wall and for the gates.

Principle

God gives different people different responsibilities, but all of them matter.

XXVIII. MESHULLAM WORKS NEAR HIS LIVING QUARTERS

Nehemiah 3:30

“Hananiah son of Shelemiah and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. Next to them, Meshullam son of Berekiah made repairs across from his living quarters.”

Cross References

Nehemiah 3:13

Hanun and the residents of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They rebuilt it, set its doors, bolts, and bars in place, and repaired five hundred yards of the wall as far as the Dung Gate.

Nehemiah 6:18

For many in Judah were bound by oath to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah.

Nehemiah 13:5

and he had provided Tobiah with a large room that had previously been used to store the grain offerings, incense, temple utensils, and the tithes of grain, new wine, and olive oil prescribed for the Levites, singers, and gatekeepers, along with the contributions for the priests.

The repetition of names demonstrates that these were real people with ongoing responsibilities.

Lesson

God knows the names behind the work.

You may not be famous.

You may never have your name printed in a newspaper.

But God knows.

XXIX. THE GOLDSMITHS AND MERCHANTS COMPLETE THE CIRCLE

Nehemiah 3:31–32

“Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired to the point opposite the gate of the temple servants and the merchants, opposite the Inspection Gate, and to the room above the corner.”

“Between the room above the corner and the Sheep Gate, the goldsmiths and merchants made repairs.”

Cross References

Nehemiah 3:8

Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the next section, and Hananiah, one of the perfume makers, worked alongside him. They restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.

Ezra 2:43

The temple servants who returned included the descendants of Ziha, Hasupha, and Tabbaoth.

Ezekiel 43:21

You are to take the bull for the sin offering and burn it in the appointed place outside the sanctuary, within the designated area of the temple grounds.

Nehemiah 3:1

Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests got to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it, set its doors in place, and continued rebuilding as far as the Tower of the Hundred and the Tower of Hananel.

The chapter ends where it began.

The wall has come full circle.

What a picture!

One section connects to another.

One worker connects to another.

One family connects to another.

One gate connects to another.

Eventually the entire wall is restored.

XXX. THE GREAT MESSAGE OF NEHEMIAH 3

The wall was not rebuilt by one great man.

It was rebuilt by **many faithful people**.

Nehemiah provided leadership.

But the people did the work.

That is an important distinction.

Nehemiah had the vision.

The people had the responsibility.

God provided the strength.

Together, the work was accomplished.

XXXI. FIVE GREAT LESSONS FROM NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 3

1. Everyone Has a Role in God's Work

The chapter includes:

- Priests.
- Levites.
- Rulers.
- Goldsmiths.
- Perfume-makers.
- Merchants.
- Temple servants.
- Families.
- Women.
- People from different cities.

God used them all.

Application

Do not say:

“I have nothing to contribute.”

Ask:

“What has God placed in my hands?”

Your gift may seem small.

But when surrendered to God, small things can become part of a much larger work.

2. Some Will Refuse to Help

The nobles of Tekoa refused.

Yet the work continued.

Application

Do not allow someone's unwillingness to destroy your willingness.

There will always be people who criticize.

There will always be people who refuse.

There will always be people who say:

“It can't be done.”

Faithful people answer:

“Let's rise up and build.”

3. Work Begins at Home

Several workers repaired the wall directly in front of their homes.

Application

Before trying to rebuild everything around you, examine what is closest to you.

Ask:

Is my home spiritually strong?

Is my testimony consistent?

Am I treating my family according to Scripture?

Is my prayer life healthy?

Am I living what I teach others?

Restoration often begins at home.

4. Leaders Must Lead by Example

Priests worked.

Rulers worked.

Officials worked.

Families worked.

Women worked.

Craftsmen worked.

Principle

Leadership is not merely delegation. Leadership is participation.

The best leaders are willing to put their shoulders to the work.

5. Diligent Effort Is Noticed by God

Baruch worked:

“with great zeal.”

His section may not have been the most famous.

But his attitude was recorded in Scripture.

Lesson

God sees:

- The effort nobody applauds.
- The prayer nobody hears.
- The sacrifice nobody notices.
- The service nobody recognizes.
- The work done when nobody is watching.

Galatians 6:9

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

XXXII. THE WALL AS A PICTURE OF RESTORATION

The physical wall provides a powerful picture of spiritual restoration.

A broken wall represents:

Vulnerability.

A repaired wall represents:

Protection.

A burned gate represents:

Loss.

A rebuilt gate represents:

Restoration.

A divided people represent:

Weakness.

A united people represent:

Strength.

Nehemiah 3 shows that restoration happens:

Section by section.

Step by step.

Person by person.

Day by day.

Spiritual Application

You may look at your life and think:

“There is too much broken.”

Do not try to rebuild everything in one day.

Start with one section.

Start with prayer.

Start with repentance.

Start with obedience.

Start at home.

Start where God has placed you.

XXXIII. THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY

One of the most repeated phrases in this chapter is:

“Next to him...”

That phrase is more than a description of geography.

It is a picture of cooperation.

One person worked **next to** another.

The wall required unity.

If one worker stopped, another section could still continue.

But the entire wall depended on connected effort.

Application to the Church

The church needs people who will work:

next to one another.

Not:

against one another.

Not:

above one another.

Not:

competing with one another.

But:

Next to one another.

XXXIV. DIFFERENT GIFTS, ONE PURPOSE

Nehemiah 3 demonstrates diversity without division.

The workers were different.

Their assignments were different.

Their backgrounds were different.

Their occupations were different.

But their purpose was the same.

This is consistent with the New Testament teaching of the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:4–6

There are different gifts, different kinds of service, and different kinds of working, but the same God works through them all.

Romans 12:4–6

The body has many members with different functions.

Application

The church does not need everyone to do the same thing.

It needs everyone to faithfully do what God has called them to do.

XXXV. THE DANGER OF COMPARISON

Imagine one builder looking at another and saying:

“Their section is more important than mine.”

That attitude would have hindered the work.

The same danger exists today.

One person may preach to thousands.

Another may teach ten people.

One person may write books.

Another may faithfully encourage one neighbor.

One may sing before a congregation.

Another may pray quietly at home.

God does not measure faithfulness by popularity.

Key Truth

The value of your service is determined by the God you serve, not by the number of people who see it.

XXXVI. Answers for Personal Study — Nehemiah 3

Question 1

Why does Nehemiah 3 record so many names?

Nehemiah 3 records the names of the people who participated in rebuilding Jerusalem's walls because **God values faithful service**. What may look like a simple list of names is actually a record of people who gave their time, labor, resources, and abilities to God's work.

The chapter reminds us that God's work is accomplished through ordinary people who are willing to serve. Their names were important enough to be preserved in Scripture.

Question 2

What does the participation of the high priest teach us about leadership?

Eliashib the high priest and the other priests participated in rebuilding the Sheep Gate (Nehemiah 3:1). This demonstrates that spiritual leaders should not merely tell others what to do; **they should be willing to work alongside the people they lead**.

Eliashib consecrated the gate and helped build it. Biblical leadership involves both **spiritual responsibility and practical service**.

Question 3

What does the work of the goldsmith and perfume-maker teach us about using ordinary occupations for God's purposes?

Nehemiah 3:8 mentions a goldsmith, while verse 32 mentions goldsmiths and merchants. These people were not professional builders, yet they participated in rebuilding the wall.

This teaches us that **God can use skills developed in ordinary occupations for extraordinary spiritual purposes**. A person's profession does not determine whether that person can be useful to God.

God can use:

- Carpenters
- Business owners
- Teachers
- Farmers
- Mechanics
- Healthcare workers
- Tradesmen
- Administrators
- Homemakers
- Retirees
- Students

Every legitimate skill can potentially become an instrument of service.

Question 4

Why is the refusal of the nobles of Tekoa significant?

Nehemiah 3:5 says that the nobles of Tekoa “**would not put their necks to the work of their Lord.**” Their refusal is significant because they were unwilling to participate while others were sacrificing their time and effort.

Their example provides a warning about **pride, privilege, and unwillingness to serve**. Position does not exempt anyone from responsibility in God's work.

Question 5

What can we learn from the people of Tekoa continuing to work even though their nobles refused?

The people of Tekoa did not allow their leaders' refusal to stop them. In fact, Nehemiah 3:27 indicates that the Tekoites repaired another section as well.

This is an excellent lesson in personal responsibility. **Someone else's disobedience does not excuse our own.**

If another person refuses to serve, we should not use that refusal as an excuse to quit. We should remain faithful to what God has placed before us.

Question 6

Why did several people repair the wall directly across from their homes?

Nehemiah 3 repeatedly describes people repairing sections of the wall near or opposite their houses. This was practical, but it also gave them a personal interest in the work.

They were protecting the places where their families lived.

There is an important spiritual principle here: **people are often most motivated to restore what they recognize as their personal responsibility.**

Question 7

What does this teach us about beginning restoration at home?

Before attempting to change the entire world, we should examine what is happening within our own homes and lives.

Restoration may begin with:

- Rebuilding family relationships
- Establishing family prayer
- Teaching God's Word
- Correcting personal habits
- Restoring spiritual discipline
- Forgiving one another
- Protecting the spiritual well-being of our children

We should not overlook the “section of the wall” directly in front of our own house while criticizing someone else's section.

Question 8

Why is Baruch's “great zeal” important?

Nehemiah 3:20 says that Baruch repaired another section of the wall “**earnestly**” or with great zeal. His attitude distinguished his service.

The importance of Baruch's example is that **God cares not only about what we do but also about how we do it.**

Two people can perform the same task, but one may serve reluctantly while another serves wholeheartedly.

Colossians 3:23 gives the same principle:

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.”

Baruch reminds us to serve God with enthusiasm rather than merely fulfilling an obligation.

Question 9

What does Nehemiah 3 teach us about teamwork?

Nehemiah 3 is one of the clearest biblical examples of cooperative work. Person after person, family after family, and group after group repaired different portions of the wall.

No single individual rebuilt Jerusalem.

The work succeeded because many people each accepted responsibility for their portion.

This is an important principle for the church as well. God's work requires cooperation, faithfulness, sacrifice, and unity.

Question 10

How does this chapter demonstrate that different people can have different assignments while serving one purpose?

Not everyone in Nehemiah 3 performed the same task. Some repaired gates. Others repaired walls. Some worked near their homes. Others worked in different locations. Priests, merchants, craftsmen, rulers, families, and ordinary citizens all participated.

Their assignments were different, but **their purpose was the same: rebuilding Jerusalem's defenses and restoring the city.**

Likewise, Christians have different gifts and ministries.

One may preach.

Another may teach.

Another may encourage.

Another may give.

Another may serve.

Another may pray.

Another may work behind the scenes.

Different assignments do not mean different importance. **The body of Christ needs many members performing different functions.** See 1 Corinthians 12:12–27.

Question 11

Are you comparing your assignment with someone else's?

Nehemiah 3 challenges us to stop measuring our usefulness by someone else's assignment.

Your section of the wall may not be as visible as someone else's. You may not receive recognition. You may not have the same responsibilities, talents, opportunities, or influence.

That does not make your work insignificant.

The question is not, **“Why don’t I have their assignment?”**

The better question is:

“Am I faithfully doing what God has placed in front of me?”

Faithfulness matters more than visibility.

Question 12

What “section of the wall” has God placed in front of you?

This is a personal question. Your “section of the wall” represents the responsibility God has placed directly in front of you.

It may be:

- Your marriage
- Your children
- Your home
- Your church
- Your ministry
- Your testimony
- Your neighborhood
- A struggling person
- A neglected responsibility
- Your personal walk with God

You do not have to rebuild the entire wall by yourself. **God has not asked you to do everything. He has asked you to be faithful with your portion.**

Personal Reflection

Nehemiah 3 may initially appear to be nothing more than a long list of names, gates, families, and construction projects. But beneath the names is a powerful theology of **service, responsibility, cooperation, leadership, and faithfulness**.

Some people were leaders.

Some were craftsmen.

Some were merchants.

Some were priests.

Some were families.

Some worked near their homes.

Some worked in less visible places.

Some worked with great zeal.

And some refused to work.

Yet God recorded them all.

The chapter teaches us that **God sees the work that people may never see**.

You may only be responsible for one section of the wall, but that section matters. You may never receive public recognition, but your faithfulness matters to God.

Do not worry about rebuilding someone else's section. Do not despise your section because it seems small. Do not abandon your section because someone else refuses to help.

Find the place God has given you.

Take up your tools.

Accept your responsibility.

Work with zeal.

Work with others.

And faithfully rebuild your section of the wall.

XXXVII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Build Your Section”

Nehemiah Chapter 3 teaches a simple but powerful truth:

You do not have to rebuild the entire wall. You need to faithfully build the section God has placed before you.

You cannot do everything.

You cannot solve every problem.

You cannot minister to every person.

You cannot repair every broken relationship.

You cannot carry every burden.

But you can be faithful where God has placed you.

Build your section.

Pray your prayers.

Serve your family.

Encourage your church.

Use your gifts.

Give your resources.

Teach God's Word.

Help someone who is hurting.

Stand for truth.

Repair what is broken within your reach.

And trust God with the sections you cannot reach.

XXXVIII. FINAL APPLICATION

Nehemiah Chapter 3 may look like a chapter filled with names.

But behind every name is a story of faithfulness.

These were people who picked up tools and began rebuilding.

Some were priests.

Some were rulers.

Some were craftsmen.

Some were merchants.

Some were women.

Some were temple servants.

Some were ordinary families.

Some worked near their homes.

Some worked far away.

Some worked with great zeal.

Some refused.

Yet the work continued.

The wall was rebuilt because enough people decided:

“We will do our part.”

That is the message for God's people today.

The church does not need everyone to have the same gift.

The family does not need everyone to have the same responsibility.

The ministry does not need everyone to have the same assignment.

What we need is **faithfulness**.

One person builds.

Another repairs.

Another encourages.

Another gives.

Another prays.

Another teaches.

Another serves.

And God takes the individual pieces and accomplishes something much greater than any one person could accomplish alone.

Remember:

You may only be responsible for one section.

But your section matters.

The person working next to you matters.

The people who come after you matter.

The people who will benefit from the completed wall matter.

And most importantly:

God sees the work.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the example of the people who rebuilt Jerusalem's wall.

Teach us that every faithful act of service matters to You.

Help us stop comparing our work with the work of others. Show us the section You have placed before us and give us the courage, strength, wisdom, and perseverance to complete it.

Help us begin restoration in our own homes and in our own hearts.

Give our leaders the humility to serve by example.

Give Your people unity so that we may work side by side rather than against one another.

Help us use our occupations, talents, resources, time, and abilities for Your glory.

When others refuse to help, keep us faithful.

When others criticize, keep us focused.

When the work becomes difficult, give us perseverance.

And when nobody notices what we have done, remind us that You see everything.

Give us the spirit of Baruch, who worked with great zeal.

May we faithfully build our section of the wall until the work You have given us is complete.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“Next to him...” — Nehemiah 3

This phrase is repeated throughout the chapter and provides a beautiful picture of God's people working together.

Central Truth

God does not require us to do everything; He calls us to faithfully do the part of the work He has placed before us.

Nehemiah Chapter 3 in One Sentence

When God's people work together, each faithfully building their assigned section, broken walls can become restored walls and a divided people can become a united people.