

NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 3 – “Rebuilding the Wall Begins”!

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221**; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

NEHEMIAH – AN EXCELLENT STUDY FOR ANY SPIRIT LED BELIEVER PROJECT:

The study of Nehemiah is often used to set up a standard for the completing of any project or work that the LORD may call a believer to do.

- Recognizing the calling
- Right heart response to the calling
- Proper preparation through a season of prayer - The four months in prayer were not only spent in talking to God,
- But also in listening to Him and in working out a Spirit-led plan for what to do when God did open the door -
- Prayerful planning of what the project may require and how to fulfill those requirements.
- Good leaders learn a sense of God’s timing.
- Nehemiah’s wise diplomatic, approach gives us an example to follow.
- Willingness to make personal sacrifices to do what has to be done to complete the project.
- Willingness to be fully engaged in a “hands on” involvement in completing the project.
- A continual recognition of the hand of God leading to the completion of the project! All glory to Him!

Chapter 3: The Jerusalem Gates - A Beautiful Picture Describing the Life and Teaching of Christ:

We now come to the beginning of this huge task! Ten significant gates will be in discussion. The work is historical. We can see spiritual truths overlaying this work, which are fitting for us even at this date! God knows exactly what’s going on. Who is working and who is not! 38 individuals are mentioned! 42 different people groups! Building – 6X; Make repairs – 35X. Let’s examine the laying out of the work and the people and the Jerusalem gates involved! We love our Lord and give Him praise for every portrait of Him in His Word!

- v. 1 **Sheep Gate** – It begins and ends at the Sheep Gate, which speaks of the cross of Jesus Christ. Nothing is said about locks and bars. The gate is never closed to those who want to come to the Lord and Savior! *Joh 1:29b "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"* Nehemiah begins and ends everything at this gate!
- v. 3 **Fish Gate** – Speaks of our being called to be fishers of men. *Mat 4:19b "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."*
- v. 6 **Old Gate** – *Jer 6:16 Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.' We don't need any new truths, just new experiences in the old truth."*
- v. 13 **Valley Gate** – Walk with the Lord! Spend time in His Word. Growing to appreciate humility in the Christian life. *Mat 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*
- v.14 **Refuse (Dung) Gate** – Speaks of the cleansing work of the Holy Spirit. Cleansing the spiritual, the mental, the emotional dung, the refuse, the garbage out of our lives! God is a wonderful fisherman. He’s not only knows how to catch the fish, but He is good at cleaning them! He is good at cleaning us! *2Co 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*
- v.15 **Fountain Gate** – The picture of the Holy Spirit flowing out of our lives. *Joh 7:37b "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Joh 7:38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*
- v. 26 **Water Gate** – This speaks of the Word of God in the hands of the Holy Spirit that daily cleanses us and washes from the defilement of the world. *Eph 5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,*
- v. 28 **Horse Gate** – Speaks of the return of the Lord at the Battle of Armageddon. *Rev 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.*
- v. 29 **East Gate** – This speaks of the return of the Lord to establish His kingdom, following the Battle of Armageddon. *Zec 14:4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south. Then He will enter in through the East Gate on the side of the Kidron Valley.*
- v. 31 **Miphkad Gate** – Gate of judgment or review. Following the 1,000 year reign of Christ, there will be the White Throne judgment for those who have rejected the salvation that God has provided through His Son. *Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.*
- v. 32 **Sheep Gate** – It doesn’t end at the Miphkad or judgment gate. He brings it back all the way around to the Sheep Gate, back to the Lamb that was slain; back to Jesus; back to the cross, because He doesn’t want any life to end at the judgment gate. He doesn’t want any to end at the judgment gate but at the gate of grace! *2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

TIME LINE – BOOKS OF EZRA – (“Bible Hub” online)

537 BC	The Proclamation of Cyrus	Ezra 1
537 BC	The Exiles Return	Ezra 2
535 BC	Temple Work Begins (70 yrs. from 605BC)	Ezra 3
534 BC	Adversaries Hinder Temple Work	Ezra 4
534 BC	Artaxerxes Orders Work Stopped	Ezra 4:17
520 BC	Tattenai's Letter to Darius	Ezra 5
520 BC	Temple Work Resumed by Darius' Decree	Ezra 6
(Books of Haggai & Zechariah occur here)		
515 BC	Completion and Dedication of the Temple	Ezra 6:16
(Book of Esther occurs here)		
BOOK OF ESTHER (about 60 yrs. from 1st return)		
483 BC	Queen Vashti Deposed	Esther 1
478 BC	Esther Becomes Queen	Esther 2
478 BC	Mordecai Thwarts a Conspiracy	Esther 2:21
474 BC	Haman Seeks Revenge on the Jews	Esther 3
473 BC	Mordecai Informs Esther of Haman's Plot	Esther 4
473 BC	Esther Prepares a Banquet	Esther 5
473 BC	The King Honors Mordecai	Esther 6
473 BC	Haman Is Hanged	Esther 7
473 BC	Xerxes' Edict on Behalf of Esther & Jews	Esther 8
472 BC	Purim Instituted	Esther 9
472 BC	Xerxes' Tribute to Mordecai	Esther 10
458 BC	Ezra to Jerusalem (147 years from 605; 79 years from 1 st return; 57 years from last verse of chapter 6)	Ezra 7
458 BC	Ezra Commissioned by Artaxerxes	Ezra 7:11
457 BC	Families Return to Jerusalem with Ezra	Ezra 8
457 BC	Ezra's reforms (80 yrs. from 1 st return)	Ezra 9
456 BC	Ezra's Prayer About Inter-marriage	Ezra 10

BOOK OF NEHEMIAH (about 100 years from 1st return)

445 BC	Nehemiah's Prayer for the Exiles	Nehemiah 1
444 BC	Artaxerxes Sends Nehemiah to Jerusalem	Nehemiah 2
444 BC	Builders of the Walls Named	Nehemiah 3
444 BC	Builders Overcome Ridicule	Nehemiah 4
444 BC	Nehemiah Abolishes Debt and Bondage	Nehemiah 5
444 BC	Sanballat's Plot	Nehemiah 6
444 BC	Completion of the Wall	Nehemiah 6:15
444 BC	Census of Returned Exiles	Nehemiah 7
444 BC	Ezra Reads the Law	Nehemiah 8
444 BC	Israelites Fast and Repent	Nehemiah 9
444 BC	Israelites Seal the Covenant	Nehemiah 10
444 BC	People Settle in Jerusalem	Neh. 11, 12
432 BC	Nehemiah Restores Laws	Nehemiah 13

Kings of Persia in Ezra-Nehemiah:

Cyrus (539-530-9yrs); Darius I (522-486-36yrs); Xerxes (Ahasuerus – 485-464-21yrs); Artaxerxes I (464-423-41yrs)

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OBSERVATION

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 3 – “Rebuilding the

Wall - The huge task of rebuilding and repairing the walls and gates begins! We will see a list of people and each had a location in which they worked. There are excellent lessons included in this chapter. Thirty-eight men are listed in eight different locations. They usually worked closest to their own homes. The place any work we do for the kingdom must begin at home, where each would be doing an excellent job. If it won't work at home, it won't work any other place either.

*Neh 3:1 Then Eliashib (whom God restores!) the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests and built (7X) the Sheep Gate; they consecrated it and hung its doors. They built as far as the Tower of the Hundred, and consecrated it, then as far as the Tower of Hananel (grace). *Neh 3:2 Next to Eliashib the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.**

Neh 3:3 Also the sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and bars.

Neh 3:4 And next to them Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz, made repairs. Next to them Meshullam (friend) the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs. Next to them Zadok (the just one, justice) the son of Baana made repairs.

Neh 3:5 Next to them the Tekoites made repairs; but their nobles did not put their shoulders to the work of their Lord.

Neh 3:6 Moreover Jehoiada (the Lord knows) 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.

Neh 3:7 And next to them Melatiah (Jehovah liberates) the Gibeonite, Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and Mizpah, repaired the residence of the governor of the region beyond the River.

Neh 3:8 Next to him Uzziel (the power of God) the son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs. Also next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs; and they fortified Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.

v. 1 All rebuilding begins the Sheep Gate! The only one that is consecrated or sanctified! The **only rebuilt gates without locks and bars**. The only one that is always open. This gate is important to the priests where they brought in the sacrifices. The priests are giving themselves to the building of this gate. Everything starts with the blood of the Lamb! They built as far as the Tower of the Hundred and consecrated it as far as the Tower of Hananel, which means grace.

v. 2 Men from Jericho, the city of the curse, were building right next to the Sheep Gate, likely not by accident! Jesus Christ bore on the cross for you and for me the awful curse of sin. Freedom from the curse of sin awaits us at the foot of the cross. “next to them”, 29 times, they will be building shoulder to shoulder!

v. 3 The second gate, a forgotten gate, which needs to be repaired, is the Fish Gate. This gate is next to the tower of grace, which is next to the Sheep Gate, which is always open. Both the Sheep gate and Tower of Grace has to be built before we can effectively use the Fish Gate. Jesus said, *drop your nets and be fishers of man*.

v. 4 This section of the wall was not completely demolished so it did not require rebuilding, only to be repaired and strengthened. The words, *repair, repairs, repaired* are used 35 times in this chapter.

v. 5 Here we are told that **God not only watches and knows who is building or rebuilding, but who isn't!** How we would hate to have our lives preserved forever in His word as ones “*who did not put their shoulders to the work of their Lord.*”

v. 6 The third gate – The Old Gate! Today our society is always searching for something new, but it is just leading to frustration. Jeremiah says that we need to ask for the “old paths,” because there we will find rest for our souls. **Rather than searching for new things and new methods, we really need to do is come to the One who promises rest.** Only in Christ will we find rest. We need to get back to the old paths, to solid teachings and doctrines of the Word, back to the Old Gate!

v. 7 The new quarter of Jerusalem was entered by the “Old Gate”.

v. 8 Now the goldsmiths (jewelers) and perfumers were accustomed to sitting at benches and working with little things such as pieces of gold and perfume ingredients. They were not used to working with large stones. It was hard work for them to rebuild the wall, but they did it. God took note of that and recorded it.

v. 1 Any rebuilding begins at the sheep gate! **All re-building starts with the blood of the Lamb at the cross of Jesus Christ!** It begins and ends at the Sheep Gate, which is **never closed and never locked** to those who want to come to the Lord and Savior! It's the only gated that's always open; the only gate that is consecrated! It is a gate of grace. *Joh 1:29b "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

v. 2 The body of Christ is composed of people with all kinds of differences, but they (we) have **one thing in common, above all things— loving and serving our Lord Jesus Christ. No entitlements here.**

v. 3 The Fish Gate speaks of our being called to be fishers of men. Our responsibility is to be using this gate seven days a week! **There we fish for men's souls!**

v. 4 We need to find “friends” **who are builders**”, who care about **doing what is right**, about **doing God's will**, not critics! **Let's build for the Lord!**

v. 5 God, who knows exactly what's going on, keeps track of those who work and those who don't! ! In this chapter 38 individuals are mentioned! 42 different people groups! Building – 6X; Make repairs – 35X. **What is He thinking about us?**

v. 6 Old Gate – *Jer 6:16* Thus says the LORD: “Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is. And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it. We have a heritage and a precious history – the Book of Acts! We don't need any new truths, just new experiences. There isn't anything new that going to happen unless we go back to the “old paths”! All revivals are based on the cross of Christ being in the center of it!

v. 7 We see here Melatiah, “Jehovah liberates”, a Gibeonite, joining in the repair. Even those who are not “blue blood Jews” are joining because of their common love for the LORD.

v. 8 Today **many of those who are making real sacrifices** for God are doing it in **great difficulty**. God takes note of it.

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Neh 3:9 And next to them Rephaiah (healed of Jehovah) the son of Hur, leader of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs.
Neh 3:10 Next to them Jedaiah (to exalt or praise Jehovah) the son of Harumaph made repairs in front of his house. And next to him Hattush (to assemble) the son of Hashabniah made repairs.
Neh 3:11 Malchijah the son of Harim and Hashub the son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section, as well as the Tower of the Ovens.
Neh 3:12 And next to him was Shallum the son of Hallohesh, leader of half the district of Jerusalem; he and his daughters made repairs.
Neh 3:13 Hanun (Jehovah pities, humbles, gives rest) 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 (1500-1700 feet) of the wall as far as the Refuse Gate.
Neh 3:14 Malchijah (Jehovah's King) the son of Rechab, leader of the district of Beth Hacerem, repaired the Refuse Gate; he built it and hung its doors with its bolts and bars.
Neh 3:15 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.
Neh 3:16 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 of David, to the man-made pool, and as far as the House of the Mighty.
Neh 3:17 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.
Neh 3:18 After him their brethren, under Bavai the son of Henadad, leader of the other half of the district of Keilah, made repairs.
Neh 3:19 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.

v. 9 Rephaiah... He worked on this section of the wall. Here was another *leader* who knew real leadership is getting down and doing it - being a servant, instead of expecting others to do it for you
v. 10 Jedaiah... made repairs in front of his house: Five times in the Nehemiah 3, it speaks of those who worked on the section right in front of their *house*. We need to give attention to the work of God right at our own homes. If the work is to be done anywhere, it needs to be done at our homes.
v. 11 Malchijah son of Harim: Mentioned in *Ezr 10:31* as one of the men, many years before, who was confronted by Ezra for the sin of taking on a pagan wife. So **Malchijah** got things right with God is serving Him.
v. 12 Notice how this apparent mighty, rich man (*leader of half the district of Jerusalem*) has his daughters joining in the work! How this important man must have instilled humility and willingness to work in his daughters!
v. 13 Notice how far the Valley Gate is from the Refuse Gate – 1500-1700 feet! The Valley Gate, representing the lowest gate, times of trials and difficulty, typifies walking with the Lord, for a long or longer while, spending time in His word, growing in humility!
v. 14 God is a wonderful fisherman. He's not only knows how to catch the fish, but He is good at cleaning them! He is good at cleaning us! *2Co 7:1 beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness...* For a city, a body or a church to be healthy there has to be a *Refuse Gate*, to get the poison out. *Malchijah* - Jehovah's King - *1Jn 1:9b .. to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
v. 15 The shortest distance between any of the gates is between the *Refuse Gate* and *Fountain Gate*! Why? Because after humility comes cleansing. After cleansing, immediately, comes the fullness of the Holy Spirit- the Fountain Gate! Drinking water in the Bible, referred to as a fountain, speaks of the Holy Spirit. Washing water, it refers to the Word of God.
v. 16 man-made pool – This was most likely the reservoir made by Hezekiah, when besieged by Sennacherib, *2Ch 32:4. House of the Mighty* - A place where a band of soldiers was kept, or the city guard.
vs. 17-18 Perhaps the Persian government would not entrust any one with a strong city, but appointed two to be a watch upon each other, just as Rome had two consuls.
v. 19 the Armory at the buttress - literally, “the armory of the corner.” The northwestern corner of the special wall of the “city of David” seems to be intended.

v. 9 All of the people, both low and mighty, worked together in this rebuilding project –there were no entitlements!

The “healed of Jehovah”, *Rephaiah, leader of half the district of Jerusalem*, doe his part!

v. 10 Five times...*made repairs in front of his house. Here, Rephaiah. v.10 Jedaiah* (He who calls unto God); *v.23. Benjamin, (Son of my right hand, protector; v. 29 Zadok* (Justice, integrity) *v. 30 Meshullam* (devoted, separation to God). **Are our houses “repaired” and in order?**

v. 11 Malchijah got things right with God (*Ezr 10:31*) and is here serving Him. **Any unconfessed sins of ours that have not been made right?**

v. 12 Shallum, leader of half the district of Jerusalem, has his daughters helping build the walls of Jerusalem. What a wonderful example as a father! **God took note of it and recorded it.**

v. 13 Valley Gate – Mat 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. We're to walk with the Lord! Spend time in His Word. Growing to appreciate humility in the Christian life

v. 14 Refuse Gate – 2Co 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Speaks of the cleansing work of the Holy Spirit. Cleansing the spiritual, the mental, the emotional dung, the refuse, the garbage out of our lives! **Certainly this speaks to us of the cleansing of our lives Is. 1:16 "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do.**

v. 15 Fountain Gate – The picture of the Holy Spirit flowing out of our lives. Joh 7:37b “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Joh 7:38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” What a remarkable picture here – the closeness of the *Refuse Gate and the Fountain Gate!* When we know what the Lord wants us to do; when we're fisherman; when we're in Your Word; have gone through the valley; made confession of sin, we come to the Fountain Gate, where we find more power and life in the fullness of the Holy Spirit!

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Neh 3:20 After him Baruch (to bless) the son of Zabbai carefully repaired the other section, from the buttress to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.

Neh 3:21 After him Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz, repaired another section, from the door of the house of Eliashib to the end of the house of Eliashib.

Neh 3:22 And after him the priests, the men of the plain, made repairs.

Neh 3:23 After him Benjamin (son of my right hand, beloved of the Lord) and Hasshub (thoughtful) made repairs opposite their house. After them Azariah the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, made repairs by his house.

Neh 3:24 After him Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another section, from the house of Azariah to the buttress, even as far as the corner.

Neh 3:25 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.

Neh 3:26 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.

Neh 3:27 After them the Tekoites repaired another section, next to the great projecting tower, and as far as the wall of Ophel.

Neh 3:28 Beyond the Horse Gate the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house.

Neh 3:29 After them Zadok (justice) the son of Immer made repairs in front of his own house. After him Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, made repairs.

v. 20 This is the only place that it's mentioned that the repairs were *carefully, earnestly, zealously* made! Made by him who blesses, who kneels down – Baruch!

v. 21 We see Meremoth making repairs here as well as in verse 4.

v. 22 Either of the plain of Jericho, where, in later times at least, there was a station of the priests, or of the plain about Jerusalem; those also assisted in the repairs of the wall.

v. 23 How important it is to be thoughtful, son of my right hand, with regard to one's house!

v. 24 A Beginning where Azariah ended and continuing unto the turning of the wall, even unto the corner; the corner where the wall turned from the south to the east.

v. 25 We often read in Jeremiah of the court of the prison being in or near the king's house, see *Jer_32:2*.

v. 26 *Ophel* is a fortified part of the city between the *Fountain Gate* and the *Water Gate*. The Water Gate speaks of the Word of God, which is the only gate that needs no repairs, **because the Word of God abides forever! *Mar_13:31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.***

v. 27 The Tekoites repaired another section. Possibly, the Tekoites weren't satisfied with the work they did just in one area, giving the bad example of their nobles who did no work (*Neh_3:5*). Here they are working on another section of the wall.

v. 28 The place of warfare, where the army goes out. Notice the warfare goes all the way to our home!

v. 29 Jewish tradition states that the Messiah will pass through the Eastern Gate when He comes to rule. Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah was the keeper of the *East Gate*. Ottoman Sultan Suleiman, in the 16th century, sealed the existing east gate, that had been rebuilt, put a cemetery in an attempt to seal the *East Gate* from the Messiah, entering, at the dead would be defiling. When they were digging the graves, one of them fell through exposing the original *East Gate*, which remains open. *Psa 24:7-10 Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. [8] Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle. [9] Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come. [10] Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.*

v. 20 What a blessing (*Baruch*) it is to God when He sees someone *carefully* doing his repairs! **How careful are we in doing His work?**

vs. 21-25 Meremoth, unnamed priests, Benjamin, Hasshub, Azariah, Binnui, Palal and Pedaiah are have specific places of work, God, who keeps track of everyone here tells us of some of the 38 names given to us as doing the work. **Are we comfortable or uncomfortable with that fact?**

v. 26 Water Gate – This speaks of the Word of God in the hands of the Holy Spirit that daily cleanses us and washes from the defilement of the world. *Eph_5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, What is the condition of our “Water Gate”?* The only gate that doesn't need to be repaired (“made repairs” is in italics) in the NKJV; “Made repairs” doesn't appear in the KJV)!

v. 27 Even though the Tekoite nobles didn't put their shoulders to the work, we see here the second section that the Tekoites built. **We need to notice that a failure in one area does not preclude our working in another!**

v. 28 Horse Gate – This speaks of the return of the Lord at the Battle of Armageddon. *Rev 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. One day we will literally be going through that gate with our Lord—are we ready?*

v. 29 East Gate the gate of hope, the gate that many believe, Jesus will enter– This speaks of the return of the Lord to establish His kingdom, following the Battle of Armageddon. *Zec 14:4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south. Then He will enter in through the East Gate on the side of the Kidron Valley. This gate needs to be repaired. It is most important. It is a gate of Hope!*

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

*Neh 3:30 After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. After him Meshullam (devoted) the son of Berechiah made repairs in front of his dwelling (chamber, a small room). Neh 3:31 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 Gate**, and as far as the upper room at the corner.*

*Neh 3:32 And between the upper room at the corner, as far as the **Sheep Gate**, the goldsmiths and the merchants made repairs. Neh 3:13 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. Neh 3:14 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. Neh 3:15 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.*

v. 30 Meshullam the son of Berechiah made repairs in front of his dwelling, actually a chamber. Meshullam had only one small room, yet he was devoted to God and to the work of rebuilding the walls.
v. 31 Builders near the Miphkad (muster or assembly) Gate, which is another important gate..
v. 32 Note that it doesn't end at the Miphkad or judgment gate. He brings it back **all the way around to the Sheep Gate, back to the Lamb** that was slain; because **He doesn't want any life to end at the judgment gate.**

Summary – Chapter 3

- This chapter shows the need for believers to work together to accomplish something.
- It pleased God to see His people working together in one accord, with one heart, with one mind.
- The wall was continuous. Any gap compromised the entire structure. The work done was a reflection on the family - almost everyone mentioned is mentioned as the *son* of someone.
- It is in the family our children learn how to work, and parents must be committed to teaching their children how to be hard workers.

Nehemiah was a good and effective leader because:

- He made each man accountable for his work. Each man had a section of wall he was responsible for, and it was known he was responsible for it.
- By giving each man a sense of responsibility for the work, they helped ensure the work would be done right. It made each man accountable.
- He noted who did the work and who didn't - the list demonstrates this.
- He organized the work for maximum efficiency. Everyone had their section, and the work was organized around the gates - the places most needful of the work.
- He knew where to start. He began with the spiritual aspect of the work (the high priest's work is mentioned first), and by consecrating everything to God.
- He got both “high” and “low” to join together in doing the work. The leaders and the high priest worked together with the man who lived in a single room.
- He was willing to let people try new things - goldsmiths, priests, and perfumers all because construction workers.
- He made people focus on their own house first.
- He didn't disqualify people because of a past of sin and compromise.

v. 30 It is better to be devoted to God in one small room than to have a mansion and have a heart cold to God. Note the example of the sixth son of Zalaph!

v. 31 Miphkad Gate – Gate of judgment or review. Following the 1000 year reign of Christ, there will be the White Throne judgment for those who have rejected the salvation that God has provided through His Son. *Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.*

v. 32 Sheep Gate – It doesn't end at the Miphkad or judgment gate. He brings it back all the way around to the Sheep Gate, back to the Lamb that was slain; back to Jesus; back to the cross, because He doesn't want any life to end at the judgment gate. He doesn't want any to end at the judgment gate but at the gate of grace! *2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. Rev 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*

He Has Made Me Glad - The Maranatha! Singers (Psalm 100:4; 118:24)

*I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart;
 I will enter His courts with praise
 I will say this is the day that the Lord has made
 I will rejoice for He has made me glad
 He has made me glad, oh, He has made me glad
 I will rejoice for He has made me glad
 He has made me glad, oh, He has made me glad
 I will rejoice for He has made me glad (2X)*

I will rejoice for He has made me glad

Hallelujah! He has made me glad, Hallelujah! He has made me glad (2X)

He has made me glad, oh, He has made me glad I will rejoice for He has made me glad (4X)

I will rejoice for He has made me glad (3)

NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 3 – “Rebuilding the Wall Begins”!

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

