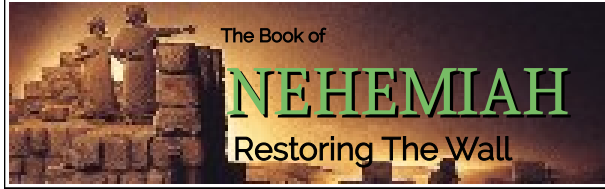


# A TIME TO BUILD

Let us rise up and build ... Nehemiah 2:18



Workers on the Wall  
Nehemiah 3  
Lesson 11

## Background Information

Chapter three is a roll call of those who participated in the building of the walls. Jews from neighboring towns as well as Jerusalem helped. Rulers, priests, Levites, goldsmiths, apothecaries and merchants, both men and women, all joined together to share in the labor. A task as enormous as rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, especially under adverse conditions, called for unusual organizational effort. Nehemiah assigned everyone a specific place to work. Assignments were made near people's own houses. Reasons for this plan are obvious. First, people who were assigned to sections of the wall near their homes would be more personally involved and consequently more highly motivated. Second, they would not have to travel to another part of the city to do the job, wasting valuable time. Third, in case of attack they would not be tempted to leave their posts, but would stay and protect their families. Fourth, the whole task would be a family effort, utilizing all available talent. The idea was for the people to work together, in cooperation with each other as 1 Corinthians speaks of the body of Christ. 1 Cor 12:12 *For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.*

Eliashib the High Priest and the other priests were the first to start rebuilding. The priests were the leaders so the people looked to them for guidance. Everyone even the goldsmiths and merchants, who were not accustomed to working joined in. They each brought whatever they could do and dedicated it to the Lord's work. We can learn much from their example, as we too are exhorted to use whatever the Lord has given to us, dedicating it all for His work and His glory.

### *Treasures of the Heart*

*But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.*

1 Cor 12:18

## What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. Carefully observe the text looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. Studying a narrative requires following the key characters and paying special attention to what God says and does. Mark your text looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. **Does a key verse stand out in each section?** Look for answers to: Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

### **Nehemiah 3:1-32**

**1** Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests and built 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. **2** Next to Eliashib the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

**3** Also the sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and bars. **4** And next to them Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz, made repairs. Next to them Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs. Next to them Zadok the son of Baana made repairs. **5** Next to them the Tekoites made repairs; but their nobles did not put their shoulders to the work of their Lord.

**6** Moreover Jehoiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the Old Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors, with its bolts and bars. **7** And next to them Melatiah the Gibeonite, Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and Mizpah, repaired the residence of the governor of the region beyond the River. **8** Next to him Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs. Also next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs; and they fortified Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. **9** And next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, leader of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs. **10** Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph made repairs in front of his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabniah made repairs.

**11** Malchijah the son of Harim and Hashub the son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section, as well as the Tower of the Ovens. **12** And next to him was Shallum the son of Hallohesh, leader of half the district of Jerusalem; he and his daughters made repairs.

**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.

**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.

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

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

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

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

**28** Beyond the Horse Gate the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house. **29** After them Zadok the son of Immer made repairs in front of his own house. After him Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, made repairs. **30** After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. After him Meshullam the son of Berechiah made repairs in front of his dwelling. **31** After him Malchijah,



## What does it mean?

**What lesson can I draw from my observations?** Ask yourself, "What was the intended meaning of the original author?" Is there a command to obey, a warning to heed, or an example to follow or avoid? State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.

**Handle this chapter differently:** Put yourself in the place of the people, (Nehemiah, leaders and workers), What lessons can you learn from their examples? Can you find any significance in the names of the gates? **Examine the text to see how many lessons come to the surface.**  
(aim for 10 words or less)

Nehemiah 3:1-32 \_\_\_\_\_  
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## How can I apply it?

**Ask yourself, "What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?"** How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? Try to be specific and relevant to your own circumstances.

**Handle this chapter differently:** Apply each lesson that you found. (aim for 10 words or less)

Nehemiah 3:1-32 \_\_\_\_\_  
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## What did God say?

See if you can discover what God wants us to understand about His character and His ways? Which of His attributes is He displaying? When we are questioning the circumstances that surround us, understanding Who God is helps us trust Him when we don't see Him working. Simply state what God is trying to communicate about Himself **and how it affects your thinking**.

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What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.

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## Getting the point!

Discover the "Big Idea" of each section. The main point of the passage is like a topic sentence in a paragraph. See if you can boil down the meaning of each section into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you find the "Big Idea"

**Because we are handling this chapter differently, just have fun with it and see if any divisions surface for you.**

Nehemiah 3:1-32 \_\_\_\_\_

# Title

State the main point of the entire passage in the form of a title.

## Flex Your Muscles

From your title Can you discover a N.T. example of this O.T. truth?

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## Time to build

Take note of how Nehemiah prepared and planned. Ask yourself, how did he attack each challenge? How did it affect those who interacted with him? What building materials did he use? (prayer, confrontation, standing firm, waiting etc.) **What did you learn that can help you next time you meet an obstacle?**

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## *Radiating His Truth*

*Some people are constructionists, helping to get the job done. Others are destructionists, busy tearing things down. A third group is made up of obstructionists who create problems for the people doing the work. In which group are you?*

*Warren Wiersbe*



