

January 27, 2019

## Doing Work Nehemiah 3 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

Vol. 9 Num. 4

### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



Chapter 3 of Nehemiah is simply a list of the people who began working on the wall and the part of the wall that they worked on. It is a section of Scripture that many people often glance over when studying the book. However, Nehemiah dedicated a large portion of his book to accounting for the people. Writing material was a precious commodity so, for him to use up this amount of space to record people is significant. This week we will look at the significance of the list of people. It gives us insight to who was working on the wall and any motives they may have had. It also gives us insight to Nehemiah's successes. He gives credit to the workers celebrating what they have done. It also gives credit to the book because a fictional story would not record detail like we find in Nehemiah. Join us this week as we take a look at the work on Jerusalem's wall and see how it can apply to us today.

WHATEVER YOU DO,  
WORK AT IT  
with all your *heart*  
AS WORKING FOR  
the **Lord**  
*not* for men

Colossians 3:23

## Builders of the Walls

**3** Then Eliashib the high priest arose with his brothers the priests and built the Sheep Gate; they consecrated it and hung its doors. They consecrated the wall to the Tower of the Hundred *and* the Tower of Hananel. <sup>2</sup> Next to him the men of Jericho built, and next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

<sup>3</sup> Now the sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and bars. <sup>4</sup> Next to them Meremoth the son of Uriah the son of Hakkoz made repairs. And next to him Meshullam the son of Berechiah the son of Meshezabel made repairs. And next to him Zadok the son of Baana *also* made repairs. <sup>5</sup> Moreover, next to him the Tekoites made repairs, but their nobles did not support the work of their masters.

<sup>6</sup> Joiada 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 its bars. <sup>7</sup> Next to them Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah, also made repairs for the official seat of the governor *of the province* beyond the River. <sup>8</sup> Next to him Uzziel the son of Harhaiah of the goldsmiths made repairs. And next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs, and they restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad

Wall. <sup>9</sup> Next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, the official of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs. <sup>10</sup> Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabneiah made repairs. <sup>11</sup> Malchijah the son of Harim and Hasshub the son of Pahathmoab repaired another section and the Tower of Furnaces. <sup>12</sup> Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, the official of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs, he and his daughters.

<sup>13</sup> Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They built it and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars, and a thousand cubits of the wall to the Refuse Gate.

<sup>14</sup> Malchijah the son of Rechab, the official of the district of Beth-haccherem repaired the Refuse Gate. He built it and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars.

<sup>15</sup> Shallum the son of Col-hozeh, the official of the district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate. He built it, covered it and hung its doors with its bolts and its bars, and the wall of the Pool of Shelah at the king's garden as far as the steps that descend from the city of David. <sup>16</sup> After him Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, official of half the district of Bethzur, made repairs as far as *a point* opposite the tombs of David, and as far as the artificial pool and the house of the mighty men. <sup>17</sup> After him the Levites carried out repairs *under* Rehum the son of Bani. Next to him Hashabiah, the official of half the district of Keilah,

carried out repairs for his district. <sup>18</sup> After him their brothers carried out repairs *under* Bavvai the son of Henadad, official of *the other* half of the district of Keilah. <sup>19</sup> Next to him Ezer the son of Jeshua, the official of Mizpah, repaired another section in front of the ascent of the armory at the Angle. <sup>20</sup> After him Baruch the son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the Angle to the doorway of the house of Eliashib the high priest. <sup>21</sup> After him Meremoth the son of Uriah the son of Hakkoz repaired another section, from the doorway of Eliashib's house even as far as the end of his house. <sup>22</sup> After him the priests, the men of the valley, carried out repairs. <sup>23</sup> After them Benjamin and Hasshub carried out repairs in front of their house. After them Azariah the son of Maaseiah, son of Ananiah, carried out repairs beside his house. <sup>24</sup> After him Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another section, from the house of Azariah as far as the Angle and as far as the corner. <sup>25</sup> Palal the son of Uzai *made repairs* in front of the Angle and the tower projecting from the upper house of the king, which is by the court of the guard. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh *made repairs*. <sup>26</sup> The temple

servants living in Ophel *made repairs* as far as the front of the Water Gate toward the east and the projecting tower. <sup>27</sup> After them the Tekoites repaired another section in front of the great projecting tower and as far as the wall of Ophel.

<sup>28</sup> Above the Horse Gate the priests carried out repairs, each in front of his house. <sup>29</sup> After them Zadok the son of Immer carried out repairs in front of his house. And after him Shemaiah the son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, carried out repairs. <sup>30</sup> After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. After him Meshullam the son of Berechiah carried out repairs in front of his own quarters. <sup>31</sup> After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, carried out repairs as far as the house of the temple servants and of the merchants, in front of the Inspection Gate and as far as the upper room of the corner. <sup>32</sup> Between the upper room of the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and the merchants carried out repairs.

**o EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.**

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

**② EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)  
**What does God MEAN?**

8. Where are the people from that are doing the repairs?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Why do you think Nehemiah records all the people that worked on the wall?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What are the occupations of the people that work on the wall?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Which of the people may have a vested interest in the gate or wall where they are working?

**③ EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)  
**Why does this MATTER to me?**

12. Are there times in our church when we should take more time to recognize people's hard work?

13. This is a very detailed account. How does the detail of the account give credibility to the book?

14. Is part of this account a celebration? Are there things that we should take more time to celebrate?

15. Why do you think Nehemiah used so much space to record all the people that worked on the wall? Why do you think it is important for us today?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

*Sermon Notes*