

**Sunday, February 21, 2010**

**Rise Up and Build**

Nehemiah 3

<sup>1</sup>Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the Sheep Gate. They consecrated it and set its doors. They consecrated it as far as the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Tower of Hananel. <sup>2</sup>And next to him the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

<sup>3</sup>The sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate. They laid its beams and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. <sup>4</sup>And next to them Meremoth the son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz repaired. And next to them Meshullam the son of Berechiah, son of Meshezabel repaired. And next to them Zadok the son of Baana repaired. <sup>5</sup>And next to them the Tekoites repaired, but their nobles would not stoop to serve their Lord.

<sup>6</sup>Joiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the Gate of Yeshanah. They laid its beams and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. <sup>7</sup>And next to them repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah, the seat of the governor of the province Beyond the River. <sup>8</sup>Next to them Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, goldsmiths, repaired. Next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, repaired, and they restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. <sup>9</sup>Next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired. <sup>10</sup>Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph repaired opposite his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabneiah repaired. <sup>11</sup>Malchijah the son of Harim and Hasshub the son of Pahath-moab repaired another section and <sup>(R)</sup> the Tower of the Ovens. <sup>12</sup>Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired, he and his daughters.

<sup>13</sup>Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They rebuilt it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and repaired a thousand cubits of the wall, as far as the Dung Gate.

<sup>14</sup>Malchijah the son of Rechab, ruler of the district of Beth-haccherem, repaired the Dung Gate. He rebuilt it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars.

<sup>15</sup>And Shallum the son of Col-hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate. He rebuilt it and covered it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. And he built the wall of the Pool of Shelah of the king's garden, as far as the stairs that go down from the city of David. <sup>16</sup>After him Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, ruler of half the district of Beth-zur, repaired to a point opposite the tombs of David, as far as the artificial pool, and as far as the house of the mighty men. <sup>17</sup>After him the Levites repaired: Rehum the son of Bani. Next to him Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah, repaired for his district. <sup>18</sup>After him their brothers repaired: Bavvai the son of Henadad, ruler of half the district of Keilah. <sup>19</sup>Next to him Ezer the son of Jeshua, ruler of Mizpah, repaired another section opposite the ascent to the armory at the buttress. <sup>20</sup>After him Baruch the son of Zabbai repaired another section from the buttress to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest. <sup>21</sup>After him Meremoth the son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz repaired another section from the door of the house of Eliashib to the end of the house of Eliashib. <sup>22</sup>After him the priests, the men of the surrounding area, repaired. <sup>23</sup>After them Benjamin and Hasshub repaired opposite their house. After them Azariah the son of Maaseiah, son of Ananiah repaired beside his own house. <sup>24</sup>After him Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another section, from the house of Azariah to the buttress <sup>25</sup>and to the corner. Palal the son of Uzai repaired opposite the buttress and the tower projecting from the upper house of the king at the court of the guard. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh <sup>26</sup>and the temple servants living on Ophel repaired to a point opposite the Water Gate on the east and the projecting tower. <sup>27</sup>After him the Tekoites repaired another section opposite the great projecting tower as far as the wall of Ophel.

<sup>28</sup>Above the Horse Gate the priests repaired, each one opposite his own house. <sup>29</sup>After them Zadok the son of Immer repaired opposite his own house. After him Shemaiah the son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, repaired. <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 repaired opposite his chamber. <sup>31</sup>After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired as far as the house of the temple servants and of the merchants, opposite the Muster Gate, and to the upper chamber of the corner. <sup>32</sup>And between the upper chamber of the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and the merchants repaired.

## Introduction:

- Overview of Nehemiah 3
  - Essentially Nehemiah is going to grab a page from the Jerusalem phonebook.
  - 38 different workers
    - In addition there are others who are mentioned but not named
  - 42 different teams
  - 7 different areas (neighborhoods) of Jerusalem
- I would imagine that most of us are tempted to skip these parts of the Bible, where it seems to us to be “just a list of names”
  - Why do we study and read this passage of Scripture?
    - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 2 Timothy 3:16
    - Nehemiah chapter 3 will
      - Teach us
      - Correct us
      - Train us
- If it is important enough for God to put in the Bible it is important enough for us to read and learn from

## We must have our foundation secured

- If we are not building on the proper foundation every part of our work will fail.
- Rebuilding the city of Jerusalem is a monumental task
  - Where do we start?
  - How do we build?
- What is the proper foundation for the work of God?
  - Nehemiah 1:4 - <sup>4</sup>As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.
  - Nehemiah 2:4 so I prayed to the God of heaven.
  - Nehemiah 2:8 and the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.
  - Nehemiah 2:12 And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem.
  - Nehemiah 2:18 And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good
  - Nehemiah 2:20 The God of heaven will make us prosper
- Nehemiah’s work is built upon:
  - God’s Plan
  - God’s Providence
  - God’s Power

## We must be part of the work

- How do we think about work?
  - “I like work, it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours.” Jerome K. Jerome
  - “A great many people have got a false idea about the church. They have got an idea that the church is a place to rest in ... to get into a nicely cushioned pew, and contribute to the charities, listen to the minister, and do their share to keep the church out of bankruptcy, is all they want. The idea of work for them, actual work in the church, never enters their minds.” D.L. Moody

- The Example of Jerusalem
  - Variety of Locations
    - People come from all over to help build the walls of Jerusalem
  - Variety of Life Situations
    - Religious Leaders, Political Figures, Tradesmen, Everyday People
  - Variety of Professions
    - Priests, Rulers, Goldsmiths, Perfumers, Merchants
    - All working to further God's city
- What can we learn?
  - We need to work.
    - When it comes to the work of the Lord, there is no place for spectators or self-appointed advisors and critics; but there is always room for workers. Wiersbe, W. W.
  - We need to work together
    - Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! (Psalm 133:1)
    - "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,<sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (John 17:20-21)

### **We must do what is in front of us**

- A common problem
  - The task can seem so overwhelming we don't know where to start
- Vs. 23 After them Benjamin and Hasshub repaired opposite their house. After them Azariah the son of Maaseiah, son of Ananiah repaired beside his own house.
- Vs. 28 -29 Above the Horse Gate the priests repaired, each one opposite his own house.<sup>29</sup> After them Zadok the son of Immer repaired opposite his own house. After him Shemaiah the son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, repaired.
- What do we learn?
  - We need to do what is in front of us

### **We must use what we have been given**

- Nehemiah 3:12 Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired, he and his daughters.
- There are two words used for the construction project in this chapter
  - The word built is used six times in this chapter
    - It means rebuilt
    - As the construction of the wall began, the stones needed for this task come from the ruined wall.
- *It is a matter of perspective*
  - Many people see rubble and a ruined wall
  - Nehemiah sees a source of raw material for the restoration of God's City
- What about us?
  - First
    - It is easy to look around and see all the things wrong with our church (the rubble)
    - Have we looked around and seen all the blessings and raw materials God has given us?
  - Second
    - Are we using what we have been given?
    - What God has asked us to do he will also equip us to do
      - As individuals?
      - As a church?

## **We must work well**

- The second word used for construction in this chapter is “repair”
  - It means “to make strong and firm”
- Nehemiah was not interested in
  - A temporary fix
  - Just making the wall look good
- Nehemiah and the residents of Jerusalem were seeking to build a wall that lasts
  - One phrase you see repeated in reference to the gates in chapter 3
    - “set its doors, its bolts, and its bars”
  - They were making sure the job was done right
  - This was a project designed to last
- What about us?
  - Often when we consider the work of the church we operate from the perspective of “good enough”
  - This is not the example that Nehemiah gives us