

Repairers Of The Walls Around Jerusalem

Nehemiah 3

3112a

“They which builded on the walls, and they which bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.”

Nehemiah 4:17

Note: *Many, many more Jews helped repair the wall around Jerusalem other than the names given here. These are the names of the men who sponsored the biggest costs of building the wall. In this chapter, it appears that to "repair the wall" is a synonym for "building the wall".*

THE BUILDERS

- 3:1** The list of builders begins with the High Priest, Eliashib, and his relatives at the Sheep Gate. There is no location for this gate given, but I presume that the priests worked on a gate near the temple area, a gate through which sacrificial animals might pass. This would mean that the Sheep Gate would be somewhere near the northeast corner of the city. This Sheep Gate, as with all gates mentioned in this chapter, was a part of the outer wall of Jerusalem, because this chapter is describing the construction of that outer wall.
- 3:2a** The men of Jericho repaired the part of the wall which was west of the Sheep Gate.
- 3:2b** A man named Zaccur ben Imri built the next part of the wall. As with all those who personally took responsibility to build a section of wall, he must have been wealthy.
- 3:3** Next to him, the sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate, including the beams, doors, locks, and bars.
- 3:4a** Next, Meremoth ben Urijah ben Koz.
- 3:4b** Next to him, Meshullam ben Berechiah ben Meshezabeel.
- 3:4c** Next to him, Zadok ben Baana.
- 3:5** Next to him, men from Tekoah came to work on a section of the wall, but none of the wealthy from that city helped.
- 3:6** Jehoiada ben Paseah and Meshullam ben Besodeaih built the Old Gate, including the beams, doors, locks, and bars.
- 3:7** Melatiah from Gibeon, Jadon from Meron (location unknown. Perhaps = Shimron-Meron in Galilee), and men from both Gibeon and Mizpeh ("Mizpah" is mentioned separately in v.15), and others from various places "unto the throne of the governor on this side of the river" (location unknown).

- 3:8a** Next, Uzziel ben Harhaiah, of the goldsmiths.
- 3:8b** Next to him, Hananiah, son of one of the apothecaries, worked up to the "broad wall".
- 3:9** Next to him, Rephaiah ben Hur, ruler of half of Jerusalem.
- 3:10a** Next to him, Jedaiah ben Harumaph repaired the part of the wall that was next to his house.
- 3:10b** Next to him, Hattush ben Hashabniah.
- 3:11** Malchijah ben Harim and Hashub ben Pahath-moab repaired "the other piece and the tower of the furnaces".
- 3:12** Next to him, Shallum ben Halohesh, the ruler of the other half of Jerusalem, and his daughters worked.
- 3:13** Next to them, the people from Zanoah built the Valley Gate with its doors, locks, and bars (no mention is made of the beams as in 3:3), and they built a huge section of the wall (1,000 cubits) running from the Valley Gate to the Dung Gate. The Dung Gate would be in the southern end of the city because the Valley of Hinnom, which lay south of the city, was a dumpsite.
- 3:14** Malchiah ben Rechab, one of the rulers of the town of Bethhaccerem built the Dung Gate, with its doors, locks, and bars.
- 3:15** Near the southeast corner of the city wall, Shallun ben Colhozeh, ruler of part of Mizpah, built and covered the Gate of the Fountain, with its doors, locks, and bars. He also built the wall of the pool of Siloah by the king's garden, to the stairs that go down (into the Kidron Valley) from the city of David. (See 12:37 for more on this area.)
- 3:16** Next to him, Nehemiah ben Azbuk, ruler of half of Beth-zur repaired the wall directly across from the sepulchres of David "and unto the pool that was made, and unto the house of the mighty."
- 3:17a** Next, a group of Levites worked, led by Rehum ben Bani.
- 3:17b** Hashabiah, ruler of Keilah repaired the next section.
- 3:18** Bavai ben Henadad, ruler of the other half of Keilah, worked next to him with men from that city.
- 3:19** Next to him repaired Ezer ben Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah. He repaired "another piece in front of the ascent to the armory at the turning of the wall."
- 3:20** "After him Baruch ben Zabbai earnestly repaired the other piece, from the turning of the wall unto the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest."

Note: *The presence of Levites, and the high priest's house being here is an indication that we are on the east side of the city near the temple area.*

3:21 Working on his second peice of the wall here (see v.4) was Meremoth ben Urijah ben Koz. He repaired “from the door of the house of Eliashib [the high priest] even to the end of the house of Eliashib.”

3:22 “After him repaired the priests, the men of the plain.”

3:23a Next along the wall, Benjamin and Hashub repaired the section of the wall which was in front of their houses.

3:23b Azariah ben Maaseiah ben Ananiah also repaired the wall “by his house”.

3:24 After him, Bennui ben Henadad “another piece, from the house of Azariah [see previous builder] unto the turning of the wall, *even unto the corner.*”

3:25a Palal ben Uzai repaired “over against the turning of the wall, and the tower that lieth out from the king's high house, that was by the court of the prison” (see Jer.37:11-21).

3:25b Next to him, Pedaiah ben Parosh.

3:26 Next, the Nethinims which dwelt in Ophel repaired the wall up to the place of the Water Gate, toward the east, and the tower “that lieth out”.

3:27 “After them, the Tekoites repaired another piece, over aganst the great tower that lieth out, even unto the wall of Ophel.”

3:28 Next, the priests repaired the wall above (=“to the north of”?) the Horse Gate, in front of “the house” (the temple?).

3:29a Zadok ben Immer then repaired a section next to his house.

3:29b Then the keeper of the East Gate, Shemaiah ben Shechaniah, repaired the next section.

3:30a Next to him, Hananiah ben Shelemiah and Hanun ben Zalaph repaired “another piece”.

3:30b After them, Meshullam ben Berechiah repaired a second section of wall which was before “his chamber”.

3:31a Malchiah the goldsmith's son repaired the next section of wall “unto the place of the Nethinims”.

3:31b The merchants financed reconstruction at “the Gate of Miphkad, and to the going up of the corner.”

3:32 The goldsmiths and the merchants also repaired the wall from the corner to the Sheep gate.

Facts to Notice:

Meshullam ben Berechiah showed great zeal for repairing this wall, and probably spent a large sum of money to accomplish his two parts (v.4 & v.30b). He was aligned, however, with Nehemiah's enemies, even giving his daughter to Tobiah's son (6:18), and speaking well of Tobiah to Nehemiah (6:19). Eventually, in Nehemiah's absence, Tobiah was honored by Eliashib the high priest and other friends of Meshullam with a huge private chamber for his residence in Jerusalem, a chamber in which tithes and offerings were once gathered (Neh.13:4-9).

One of Eliashib's grandsons married the daughter of another ferocious enemy of Israel, Sanballat (Neh.13:28).

There are 10 gates mentioned by name here. The Gate of Ephraim is mentioned later (Neh.8:16), and in Nehemiah 12:39 is mentioned the Prison Gate.