

## THE BUILDING OF THE WALL. NEH. 3. 10/27/24. #04.

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**3** 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.  
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### 1. A community project

- a. Neh. 3 shows a master of organization
  - a1. Unlike inefficient roadwork today
  - a2. Everyone had an assignment
- b. Superb division of labor
  - a1. Each group had a reasonable section of wall & gates to repair
  - a2. The assignments were logical & ordered
- c. The completed project encompassed the city
  - a1. 42 sections were built by 41 groups (men of Tekoa built 2 sections)
  - a2. 10 gates were repaired
  - a3. Average length of each section was 250', though the Broad Wall was 1500'
- d. A master building plan
  - a1. Each group repaired a section of wall near his home (except those from other towns)
  - a2. Many trades represented (priests, merchants, perfumers, temple workers, bakers, even daughters)
  - a3. The record goes counterclockwise

### 2. A mind to build

- a. The 1<sup>st</sup> mentioned is the High Priest
  - a1. The priests labored with the people

- a2. The Levites had their own section of wall
- b. There were no professional masons or carpenters mentioned in the group
  - a1. Everyone was a common citizen
  - a2. Each was responsible for his section
- c. Every part of the wall was built at once
  - a1. Unlike modern construction, which takes small sections separately, every part of the wall was being worked on simultaneously
  - a2. Started at the joining sections & worked inwardly
- d. The towers were reconstructed (Tower of Hananah, Tower of Hundred, Tower of the Ovens...)
- e. Some notable people are mentioned
  - a1. Meremoth had worked with Ezra & had received the treasury when Ezra arrived
  - a2. Meshullam had worked with Ezra, but later was chastised by Neh. for giving his daughter to Tobiah as a wife (6:18)
- f. The *exalted ones* of Tekoa (Amos's town) refused to put their necks to the work (reference to oxen who refuse to pull the plow)
  - a1. Manual labor was beneath them
  - a2. Later, they were chastised for having enslaved their poor brethren

### 3. Unity brings success

- a. Due to the people working together for one common goal, the project was completed
- b. There is no record of internal strife, rivalry, or complaint (all had a mind to finish the work)
- c. Several points of note:
  - a1. A building project is tangible (a physical entity where progress can be seen)
  - a2. Building projects are a 1 time event
  - a3. Like rededicating the temple under Haggai the hardest part was daily holy living
  - a4. Ezra & Neh. faced spiritual opposition from the builders: withholding tithes, marriage to pagans, working on the Sabbath, ...