

# STRENGTHENED

O GOD, STRENGTHEN MY HANDS

NEHEMIAH 6:9

Sunday Morning, February 2, 2025 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

**Message Title: Teaming Together in the Work**

**Message Text:** Nehemiah 3:1-32

## Introduction:<sup>1</sup>

We have all faced projects that were larger than we could handle on our own. That was the case for Nehemiah. He had relocated from Persia to Jerusalem because God had put it in his heart to rebuild the walls around the city of Jerusalem. It was a massive undertaking! The walls had been lying in ruin for over one hundred and forty years. After Nehemiah had surveyed the situation and made plans, he called the people together to share this mammoth vision with them. He testified of God's faithful hand of blessing on him and how King Artaxerxes had given him the commission, time, passports and resources. The response of the people was the same and Nehemiah's call to them, "*Let us rise up and build.*" Today, we will see what happens with God's people team together in the work of the Lord.

### THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Rebuilding the Walls  
[1-6]

Restoring the People  
[7-13]

## 1. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Work

**NOTE** — This was a complex building project that required planning and coordination. It is believed that the walls were about two-and-a-half miles long, with at least ten gates enclosing about 220 acres.

**QUOTE:** The key to Nehemiah's success was that he planned his work and then worked his plan, trusting God for the results. —Rusten

**DELEGATED COORDINATION** — \_\_\_\_\_ *different teams*

**DOCUMENTED COORDINATION** — *assignments connected with the phrases "next to him"—"next to them"—"beyond him"—"beyond them"—"beside him"*

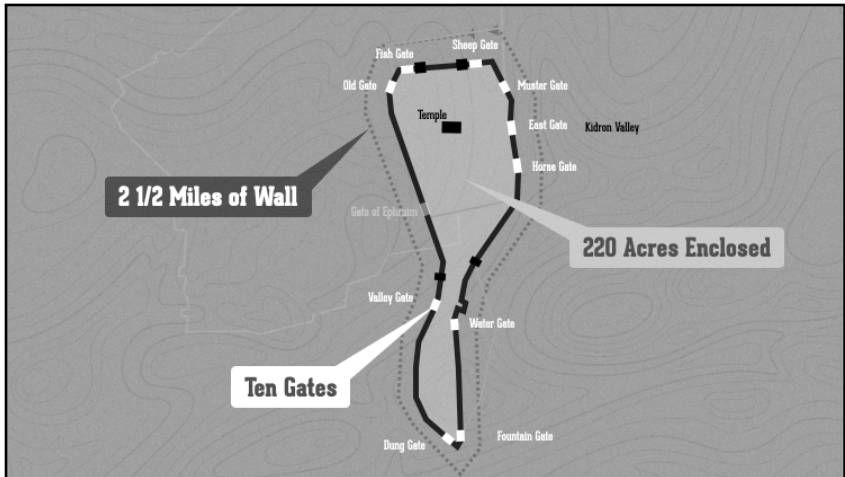
**EFFICIENT COORDINATION** — *assignments were given near their homes and workplaces (1, 23, 28, 29, 30)*

*Romans 12:4-8 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: 5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of*

<sup>1</sup> Credit: Outline proper is taken from Evers, Stan K. Doing a Great Work: Ezra and Nehemiah Simply Explained.



*another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*



## 2. \_\_\_\_\_ in the Work

COOPERATION is working together toward the same \_\_\_\_\_.

DIFFERENT OCCUPATIONS — *High Priest (1), Priests (1, 22, 28, 32), Goldsmiths (8, 31, 32), Apothecaries (8), Merchants (31, 32), Rulers (9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19)*

DIFFERENT ORIGINS — *Men of Jericho (2), Men of Tekoa (5, 27), Men of Gibeon and Mizpah (7), The inhabitants of Zanoah (13), Men of the Plain (22), Beth Hacerem (3:14), Beth Zur (3:16), Keilah (3:17)*

*Philippians 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;*

ONE SPIRIT — ONE MIND — STRIVING TOGETHER

## 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Toward the Work

*Nehemiah 3:5 And next unto them the Tekoites repaired; but their nobles put not their necks to the work of their Lord.*

NOTE — The city of Tekoa was located about 12 miles south of Jerusalem in an open plain in the Judean wilderness. It was the home of the prophet Amos (Amos 1:1).—FSB

NOTE — The leaders of Tekoa refused to participate in the work.

QUOTE: Were these “aristocrats” so important in their own eyes that they could not perform manual labor? Yet Paul was a tentmaker (Acts 18:3), and Jesus was a carpenter (Mark 6:3). —Wiersbe

*1 Peter 5:5 ... God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

*Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*

## 4. \_\_\_\_\_ for the Work

### DEDICATION TO THE LORD

*Nehemiah 3:1 Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel.*

DEFINITION—SANCTIFIED: *to consecrate; to render holy or set apart by means of religious rites.*

### DAUGHTERS IN THE WORK

*Nehemiah 3:12 And next unto him repaired Shallum the son of Halohesh, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem, he and his daughters.*

### DILIGENCE IN THE WORK

*Nehemiah 3:20 After him Baruch the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired the other piece, from the turning of the wall unto the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.*

DEFINITION—EARNESTLY: *to burn (emotionally); to feel strong emotion, especially anger or passion.*

*Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might;*

*Romans 12:11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;*

### DOUBLE DUTY IN THE WORK

*Some accepted more than one assignment (11, 19, 21, 24, 27, 30)*

*Nehemiah 3:19 And next to him repaired Ezer the son of Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah, another piece over against the going up to the armoury at the turning of the wall.*

*Hebrews 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*

## 5. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Work

*Nehemiah 3:1 Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel.*

*Nehemiah 3:32 And between the going up of the corner unto the sheep gate repaired the goldsmiths and the merchants.*

NOTE — This chapter starts and ends at the sheep gate.

*Nehemiah 6:15 So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.*

*Colossians 1:5–6 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; 6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:*

## Conclusion

*Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

