

A Picture of the Kingdom of God: Nehemiah 3

Sunday, May 21, 2023
Covenant Church
Pastor Zack Phillips

Nehemiah 3:1-12, 28-32

¹ Then the high priest Eliashib set to work with his fellow priests and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They consecrated it and set up its doors; they consecrated it as far as the Tower of the Hundred and as far as the Tower of Hananel. ² And the men of Jericho built next to him. And next to them Zaccur son of Imri built.

³ The sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate; they laid its beams and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars. ⁴ Next to them Meremoth son of Uriah son of Hakkoz made repairs. Next to them Meshullam son of Berechiah son of Meshezabel made repairs. Next to them Zadok son of Baana made repairs. ⁵ Next to them the Tekoites made repairs; but their nobles would not put their shoulders to the work of their Lord.

⁶ Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah repaired the Old Gate; they laid its beams and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars. ⁷ Next to them repairs were made by Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite—the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah—who were under the jurisdiction of the governor of the province Beyond the River. ⁸ Next to them Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs. Next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs; and they restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. ⁹ Next to them Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs. ¹⁰ Next to them Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house; and next to him Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs. ¹¹ Malchijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. ¹² Next to him Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs, he and his daughters.

* * * * *

²⁸ Above the Horse Gate the priests made repairs, each one opposite his own house. ²⁹ After them Zadok son of Immer made repairs opposite his own house. After him Shemaiah son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, made repairs. ³⁰ After him Hananiah son of Shelemiah and Hanun sixth son of Zalaph repaired another section. After him Meshullam son of Berechiah made repairs opposite his living quarters. ³¹ After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the temple servants and of the merchants, opposite the Muster Gate, and to the upper room of the corner. ³² And between the upper room of the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and the merchants made repairs.

A. “Their Deeds Follow Them”

- Twelve tribes’ names inscribed on twelve gates, twelve apostles’ names inscribed on twelve foundations

Rev 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.”

- “The kings of the earth will bring their glory into [the city]”—and, again, “People will bring into [the city] the glory and the honor of the nations.”

1 Corinthians 3:12–15 **12** Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— **13** the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. **14** If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. **15** If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.

- Jesus still has his scars

B. A Particular Kind of Humility

When the Persians defeated the Spartans at the battle of Cnidus ~394 BC and the long wall of Piraeus near Athens had to be rebuilt, we have an inscription of how that happened:

In the archonship of Euboulides: starting at the boundary marker, as far as the facade of the gates by the Aphrodision, moving to the right 790 (units); Demosthenes the Boiotian paid for this and for the transportation of the stones.¹

Phil 2:5-8 ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
 did not regard equality with God
 as something to be exploited,
⁷ but emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 being born in human likeness.
 And being found in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself
 and became obedient to the point of death—
 even death on a cross.

C. Saying Yes When You’re Not Gifted

Question: What is one thing that God may have said to you through this sermon?

¹ Quoted in Joseph Blenkinsopp, *Ezra-Nehemiah: A Commentary*, ed. Peter Ackroyd et al., First edition., The Old Testament Library (Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster Press, 1988), 232 (citing Kirchner, 290, no. 1657; M. Smith 1971, 129–130).