

City of God Part 16 - “**Rise up and Build**” (8-9-26)

Introduction: Review where we are in the Series so far, then introduce today’s topic - Starting Nehemiah

- **Nehemiah** - 3rd wave of exiles return, the rebuilding of the Wall, the reading of the Law, further Reforms
- **Timeline:** 12-13 years after the events at the end of Ezra 9-10

Today’s Text: Nehemiah 3 - Rebuilding the Wall - The plan and assignments, everyone has a part to play

Link to Map: [https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/60f82ad22067d16ce4335cd3/663225747247fb38d5e7eec5_Possible Illustration of the Wall in Nehemiah's](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/60f82ad22067d16ce4335cd3/663225747247fb38d5e7eec5_Possible%20Illustration%20of%20the%20Wall%20in%20Nehemiah's%20Time.png)

Time.png

1) Rise Up and Build

Nehemiah 3:1 (ESV)

Then Eliashib the high priest **rose up** with his brothers the priests, and they built the Sheep Gate.

Note: “Rose up” - same word as Shawn’s message last week.

Nehemiah 2:11-12a (ESV)

So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. Then I **arose** in the night

Nehemiah 2:18 (ESV)

And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, “Let us **rise up** and build.” So they strengthened their hands for the good work.

Application: They are coming alive and finding strength, purpose, and a sense of togetherness. Amazing how new life breeds more new life.

The Power of One-ness!

- **Unity** is a reality we have in Christ
- **One-ness** is where we live that out - life on life, side by side.

This Rising Up - not only leads to New Life and One-ness, but . . .

The Importance of Work

This new sense of life leads to work! Interesting, work isn’t bad. Its been marred by the fall but community, work, and rest were all instituted in the garden!

The Work was **established** in Community and then **done** as Community, Side-by-Side, Together

Ephesians 4:11-13 (ESV)

[11] And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

Note: Unity in verse 13 is most literally translated One-ness

2) Working it Out

• Consecrated Work

Nehemiah 3:1 (ESV)

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.

Note: Eliashib high priest rebuilt the Sheep Gate - ***Show Map***

The Sheep Gate - (north wall - north/east side) was significant to the priests because animals were brought through that entrance to the Temple for sacrificial offerings. Near the market where sheep were sold and close to the Sheep Pool where the Temple sacrifices were washed.

Note - as He does the work set aside for him, others repaired Eliashib's house (vs. 20-21) . . .

Nehemiah 3:20-21 (ESV)

[20] After him Baruch the son of Zabbai repaired another section from the buttress to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest. [21] 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.

• Hard and Humble Work

Nehemiah 3:5 (ESV)

And next to them the Tekoites repaired, but their nobles would not stoop to serve their Lord.

Note: Nobles wouldn't stoop to serve!

"stoop to serve" - "Put not their necks to the work" - wouldn't take the yoke of labor!

Noble (adjective h117: Adeer): great, majestic - strength and beauty

Root: (verb h142: Adar): magnify, glorify (3x in OT)

2x - Exo 15 (when God rescues from Egypt)

1x - the Lord magnifying his law (Isa. 42:21)

Legacy of Tekoites: 2 Chr. 20:20 - Jehoshaphat leads them in worship as the Lord defeats their enemy!

2 Chronicles 20:20-22 (ESV)

[20] And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed." [21] And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the LORD and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, "Give thanks to the LORD, for his steadfast love endures forever." [22] And when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed.

Note: They had forgotten their legacy, as humble worshippers who trusted the Lord.

- **Costly Opposition**

Nehemiah 3:7 (ESV)

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.

Note: These guys live in the region where the governor of the province “Beyond the River” has his seat of authority. And we know these guys are not happy with this work. Consider the implications, we are doing the work and then returning home to our town right under the nose of the governor who opposes this work.

Putting our hands to the work is costly and will be opposed.

- **Your Gift and Willingness matter**

Nehemiah 3:8 (ESV)

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.

restored (fortified) - only time in this passage that verb is used to describe the work. . .

This word is a bit confusing, only used once (here) in bible here as “repair.” Usually means something more like to leave or to be left.

But makes sense in context - these are perfumers and jewelers, the wall didn’t need as much work here, but there was still a place for them to contribute!

- **The very thing bothering you, might be your work**

Nehemiah 3:10a (ESV)

Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph repaired opposite his house.

Note: This happens in 5 spots - see also verses: 23, 28-30

- **Your personal story fits right in!**

Nehemiah 3:12 (ESV)

Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired, he and his daughters.

Note: No other note, than as a girl dad this spoke to me!

Conclusion: What might the Lord be calling us to, with those around us. What needs repaired. May we discover that by listening to Him (together!), and then walking in One-ness in the work. Let’s rise up and build!