

CLOSING THE GAP

March 4, 2007

Nehemiah 2:18-20; 3

It takes teamwork to get the job done. Together we stand and divided we fall. Jesus said a house divided against itself cannot stand. One of the tools of the enemy is to cause division in the house of God. As believers, we must be on guard for dividing spirits. It was said of Judas that he was with the disciples, but he was not one of them (Acts 1:17; 25). There are times when we need others to get the job done. The Bible teaches that a threefold cord is not easily broken (Ecclesiastes 4:12). We are always stronger together than we are apart.

THE BUILDERS
CHAPTER 3

I. TEAMWORK REQUIRES DESIRE

THE BUILDERS:

Some thirty-eight individual people are listed here in this chapter who labored in constructing the walls. Also, at least fifteen different groups are listed as working on the wall. It would have been impractical to list the name of every single person who worked on the wall.

- A. There is a community of selfless people
 - 1. The people represented diverse geographic backgrounds

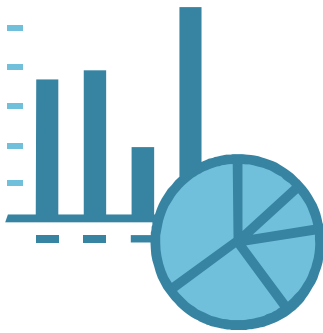
- B. There is a community of spiritual people
 - 1. The people represented distinct Godly beliefs
 - 2. We are living in an anti-Godly age

- C. There is a community of skilled people
 - 1. The people represented diverse gifts
 - a. Priest (v.1, 17, 22)
 - b. Goldsmiths (v.8, 31, 32)
 - c. Perfumers (v.8)
 - d. Rulers (v. 9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19)
 - e. Merchants (v.32)
 - f. Water carriers (v.26, 31)
 - g. Gate keepers (v.29)



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THE BLOCKERS
CHAPTER 3



THE BUILDING
CHAPTER 3

II. TEAMWORK REFUTES DIVISION

THE BLOCKERS: *The Enemy Within the Gate*

- A. There is the corruption of the laborers
1. Eliashib (v.1, 20) the first mentioned worker is the High Priest
 - a. Allied with Tobiah (v.13:4)
 - b. Built a chamber for Tobiah to dwell in the Temple (v.13:5)
 - c. Eliashib's granddaughter married a son of Sanballat (v.13;28)
 2. Meshullman (v.4, 30)
 - a. Daughter married the son of Tobiah (v.6:18)
 3. The Tekoite nobles (v.5) put not their necks to the work
 - a. The common people of Tekoite worked hard (v.27)
- B. There is the cooperation of the laborers
1. The phrase: "next unto him repaired" (15 times)
 2. The phrase: "after him repaired" (16 times)
 3. 31 times in 32 verses the work continued
- C. There is the continuation of the laborers
1. Build – 1 (v.3); builded – 3 (v.1, 2, 2); built -3 (v.13,14, 15)
 2. Fortified -1 (v.8)
 3. Repaired – 35 times

III. TEAMWORK REFLECTS DEDICATION

THE BUILDING:

- A. There is the completion of the work
1. 6 times the laborers took on "another piece" (v.11, 19, 20, 21, 27, 30)
- B. There is the character of the worker (v.20)
1. Baruch worked "earnestly" – "to be hot" or "to get hot"
- C. There is the challenge of the work
1. The Tekoite people worked hard in spite of their leaders (v.27)

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. The gates of the walls (12)
- B. The towers of the walls (4)
- C. The landmarks near the walls (10)