
NEHEMIAH 3: 1 Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up its doors; even to the tower of Hammeah they sanctified it, to the tower of Hananel.

The names of those who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem; and the part assigned to each person, vv. 1-32.

Verse 1

Eliashib the high priest - It was right that the priests should be first in this holy work; and perhaps the sheep gate which is mentioned here is that by which the offerings or sacrifices were brought into the temple.

They sanctified it - As they began with the sacred offering as soon as they got an altar built, it was proper that the gate by which these sacrifices entered should be consecrated for this purpose, i. e., set apart, so that it should be for this use only.

NEHEMIAH 3: 2 Next to him built the men of Jericho. Next to them built Zaccur the son of Imri.

NEHEMIAH 3: 3 The sons of Hassenaah built the fish gate. They laid its beams, and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars.

Verse 3

The fish gate - We really know scarcely any thing about these gates - what they were, why called by these names, or in what part of the wall situated. All plans of Jerusalem, its temple, walls, and gates, are mere works of conjecture; and yet how learnedly have some men written on all these subjects!

NEHEMIAH 3: 4 Next to them, Meremoth the son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz 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.

NEHEMIAH 3: 5 Next to them, the Tekoites made repairs; but their nobles didn't put their necks to the work of their lord.

NEHEMIAH 3: 6 Joiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the old gate. They laid its beams, and set up its doors, and its bolts, and its bars.

NEHEMIAH 3: 7 Next to them, Melatiah the Gibeonite, and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon, and of Mizpah, repaired the residence of the governor beyond the River.

Verse 7

The throne of the governor - His house, and the place where he dispensed justice and judgment. Previously to the days of Nehemiah, Jerusalem was governed by a deputy from the Persian king; (see

Neh 5:15); but after this time they were governed by governors and judges chosen from among themselves.

NEHEMIAH 3: 8 Next to him, Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, goldsmiths, made repairs. Next to him, Hananiah one of the perfumers made repairs, and they fortified Jerusalem even to the broad wall.

Verse 8

Goldsmiths - From the remotest period of the history of the Jews they had artists in all elegant and ornamental trades; and it is also evident that goldsmiths, apothecaries, and merchants were formed into companies in the time of Nehemiah.

Apothecaries - Rather such as dealt in drugs, aromatics, spices, etc., for embalming, or for furnishing the temple with the incense consumed there.

NEHEMIAH 3: 9 Next to them, Rephaiah the son of Hur, the ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs.

Verse 9

Ruler of the half part of Jerusalem - Probably the city was divided into two parts; one for Judah, and the other for Benjamin, each having its proper governor. Rephaiah mentioned here was one of these governors, and Shallum, mentioned Neh 3:12, was the other. There were other rulers or governors of particular country or village districts.

NEHEMIAH 3: 10 Next to them, Jedaiah the son of Harumaph made repairs across from his house. Next to him, Hattush the son of Hashabneiah made repairs.

NEHEMIAH 3: 11 Malchijah the son of Harim, and Hasshub the son of Pahathmoab, repaired another portion, and the tower of the furnaces.

Verse 11

Repaired the other piece - That which was left by Jedaiah after he had repaired the wall opposite to his own house. Probably some of the principal people were obliged to repair those parts of the wall opposite to their own dwellings. Perhaps this was the case generally.

NEHEMIAH 3: 12 Next to him, Shallum the son of Hallohesh, the ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, he and his daughters, made repairs.

Verse 12

The son of Halohesh - Or, the son of the Enchanter: conjectured to be thus named from having the art to charm serpents.

The ruler of the half part - See on Neh 3:9 (note).

NEHEMIAH 3: 13 Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the valley gate. They built it, and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and one thousand cubits of the wall to the dung gate.

Verse 13

The inhabitants of Zanoah - This was a town in the tribe of Judah. Jos 15:34.

NEHEMIAH 3: 14 Malchijah the son of Rechab, the ruler of the district of Beth Haccherem repaired the dung gate. He built it, and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars.

Verse 14

Beth-haccerem - A village or town in the tribe of Benjamin. See Jer 6:1.

NEHEMIAH 3: 15 Shallun the son of Colhozeh, the ruler of the district of Mizpah repaired the spring gate. He built it, and covered it, and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and the wall of the pool of Shelah by the king's garden, even to the stairs that go down from the city of David.

Verse 15

The pool of Siloah - This is probably the same as that mentioned by the evangelists.

The stairs that go down from the city of David - Jerusalem being built on very uneven ground, and some hills being taken within the walls; there was a necessity that there should be in different places steps by which they could ascend and descend: probably similar to what we see in the city of Bristol.

NEHEMIAH 3: 16 After him, Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, the ruler of half the district of Beth Zur, made repairs to the place opposite the tombs of David, and to the pool that was made, and to the house of the mighty men.

Verse 16

The pool that was made - Calmet supposes that this was the reservoir made by Hezekiah, when besieged by Sennacherib, 2Chr 32:4.

The house of the mighty - Probably a place where a band of soldiers was kept, or the city guard.

NEHEMIAH 3: 17 After him, the Levites, Rehum the son of Bani made repairs. Next to him, Hashabiah, the ruler of half the district of Keilah, made repairs for his district.

NEHEMIAH 3: 18 After him, their brothers, Bavvai the son of Henadad, the ruler of half the district of Keilah made repairs.

NEHEMIAH 3: 19 Next to him, Ezer the son of Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah, repaired another portion, across from the ascent to the armoury at the turning of the wall.

Verse 19

The going up to the armoury - This was either a tower that defended the angle where the two walls met; or the city arsenal, where shields, spears, etc., were kept to arm the people in time of danger.

NEHEMIAH 3: 20 After him, Baruch the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired another portion, from the turning of the wall to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.

Verse 20

Earnestly repaired - He distinguished himself by his zeal and activity.

NEHEMIAH 3: 21 After him, Meremoth the son of Uriah the son of Hakkoz repaired another portion, from the door of the house of Eliashib even to the end of the house of Eliashib.

NEHEMIAH 3: 22 After him, the priests, the men of the Plain made repairs.

Verse 22

The priests, the men of the plain - Some of the officers of the temple, particularly the singers, dwelt in the plain country round about Jerusalem, Neh 12:28; and it is likely that several of the priests dwelt in the same place.

NEHEMIAH 3: 23 After them, Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs across from their house. After them, Azariah the son of Maaseiah the son of Ananiah made repairs beside his own house.

NEHEMIAH 3: 24 After him, Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another portion, from the house of Azariah to the turning of the wall, and to the corner.

NEHEMIAH 3: 25 Palal the son of Uzai made repairs opposite the turning of the wall, and the tower that stands out from the upper house of the king, which is by the court of the guard. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh made repairs.

NEHEMIAH 3: 26 (Now the Nethinim lived in Ophel, to the place over against the water gate toward the east, and the tower that stands out.)

NEHEMIAH 3: 27 After him the Tekoites repaired another portion, over against the great tower that stands out, and to the wall of Ophel.

NEHEMIAH 3: 28 Above the horse gate, the priests made repairs, everyone across from his own house.

Verse 28

The horse gate - The place through which the horses passed in order to be watered; It was near the temple. Some rabbins suppose that in order to go to the temple, a person might go on horseback to the place here referred to, but then was obliged to alight, as a horse could pass no farther. Horses were never very plentiful in Jerusalem.

NEHEMIAH 3: 29 After them, Zadok the son of Immer made repairs across from his own house. After him, Shemaiah the son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the east gate made repairs.

NEHEMIAH 3: 30 After him, Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another portion. After him, Meshullam the son of Berechiah made repairs across from his room.

NEHEMIAH 3: 31 After him, Malchijah one of the goldsmiths to the house of the Nethinim, and of the merchants, made repairs over against the gate of Hammiphkad, and to the ascent of the corner.

NEHEMIAH 3: 32 Between the ascent of the corner and the sheep gate, the goldsmiths and the merchants made repairs.

Verse 32

The goldsmiths and the merchants - The word **הַצִּרְפִּים** *hatstsofehim* may signify smiths, or persons who worked in metals of any kind; but it is generally understood to mean those who worked in gold. I have already observed, that the mention of merchants and goldsmiths shows that these persons were formed into bodies corporate in those ancient times. But these terms are differently rendered in the versions. The Vulgate is the same as ours, which probably our translators copied: *aurifices et negociatores*. The Syriac is, goldsmiths and druggists. The Arabic, smelters of metal and porters. The Septuagint, in some copies, particularly in the Roman edition, and in the Complutensian, Antwerp, and Paris Polyglots, have **οἱ χαλκεις και οἱ μεταβολι**, smiths and merchants; but in other copies, particularly the London Polyglot, for **μεταβολοι** we find **ῥωποπωλαι**, seller of shields. And here the learned reader will find a double mistake in the London Polyglot, **ῥοποπωλαι** for **ῥωποπωλαι**, and in the Latin version *scruta* for *scuta*, neither of which conveys any sense.