

## You Can Count on Me Nehemiah 3:1-32

**Inspiration without organization leads to frustration.**

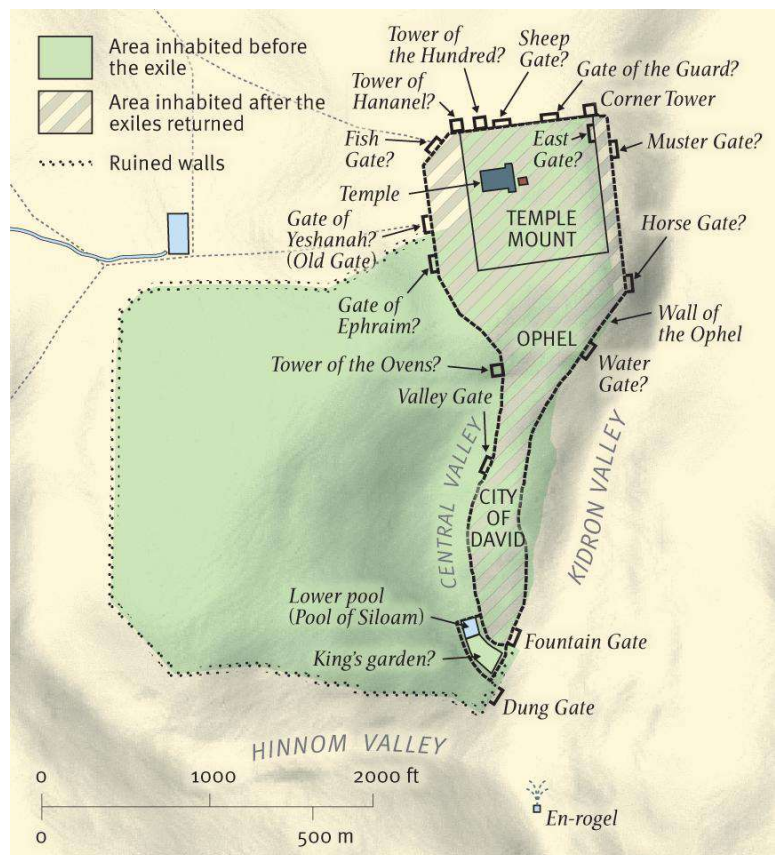
Nehemiah took the walls, organized it and separated it into manageable assignments and gave them to groups of people to accomplish the work. They were naturally organized by families. They were assigned tasks by their interests.

2500 years since the time of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, and we know from chapter 3 who was involved in that work. **Here's the principle: God knows every single worker by name.** If no one else knows your name or knows your contribution – GOD KNOWS.

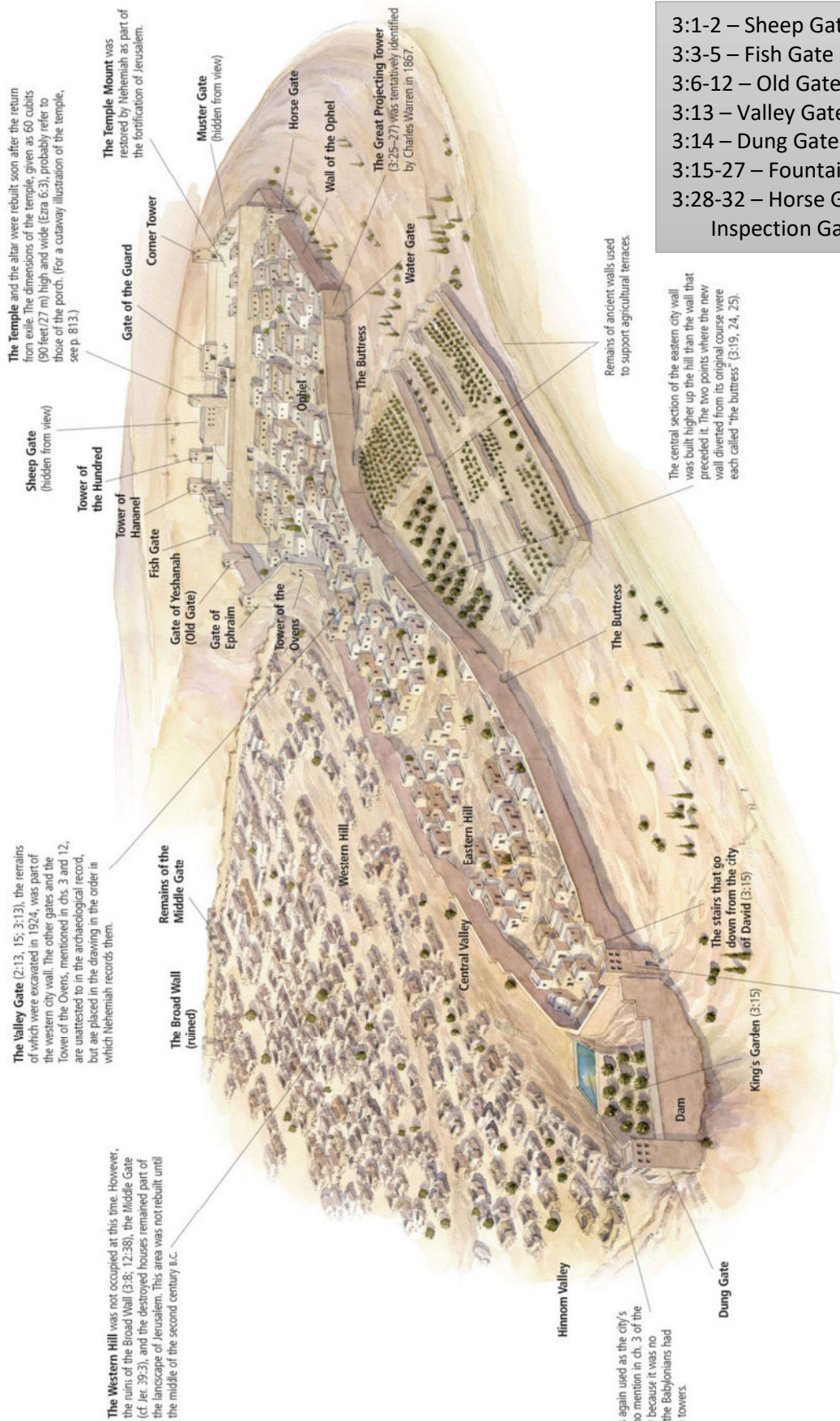
God has given each of us a specific assignment. Nehemiah gave out specific assignments to 38 individuals mentioned in chapter 3. What if 37 out of the 38 had done a great job, but one person didn't stay faithful? The wall would be useless and open to attack at the weak area of the wall. **Here's the question: What part of the wall have you been given in the kingdom of God?**

### **APPLICATIONS:**

- God knows every worker. Each person is valuable in the work.
- Every area of ministry is vital.
- God knows HOW we serve! (Nehemiah 3:20) Romans 12:11 – serve the Lord enthusiastically!



The Tower of Hananel, the Tower of the Hundred, the Sheep Gate, the Gate of the Guard, and the Corner Tower added strength to the northern wall of the Temple Mount, which also served as the northern city wall in this area.



The Temple and the altar were rebuilt soon after the return from exile. The dimensions of the temple, given as 60 cubits (90 feet/27 m) high and wide (Ezra 6:3), probably refer to those of the porch. (For a cutaway illustration of the temple, see p. 813.)

The Temple Mount was restored by Nehemiah as part of the fortification of Jerusalem.

The central section of the eastern city wall was built higher up the hill than the wall that preceded it. The two points where the new wall diverted from its original course were each called "the buttriss" (3:19, 24, 25).

The Valley Gate (2:13, 15; 3:13), the remains of which were excavated in 1924, was part of the western city wall. The other gates and the Tower of the Ovens, mentioned in chs. 3 and 12, are attested to in the archaeological record, but are placed in the drawing in the order in which Nehemiah records them.

The Western Hill was not occupied at this time. However, the ruins of the Broad Wall (3:8; 12:38), the Middle Gate (cf. Jer. 39:3), and the destroyed houses remained part of the landscape of Jerusalem. This area was not rebuilt until the middle of the second century B.C.

The Broad Wall (ruined)

Remains of the Middle Gate

Western Hill

Eastern Hill

Central Valley

Dam

King's Garden

Stairs that go down from the city of David

The Buttriss

Water Gate

The Great Projecting tower

Wall of the Ophel

Horse Gate

Muster Gate

Corner Tower

Gate of the Guard

Tower of Hananel

Tower of the Hundred

Sheep Gate

Fish Gate

Gate of Yeshamah

Gate of Ephraim

Tower of the Ovens

The Buttriss

Remains of ancient walls used to support agricultural terraces

The central section of the eastern city wall

The Buttriss

King's Garden

Stairs that go down from the city of David

Dam

Dung Gate

Hinno Valley

Western Hill

Eastern Hill

Central Valley

Dam

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The Siloam Pool was again used as the city's water source. There is no mention in ch. 3 of the Gihon Spring, probably because it was no longer accessible after the Babylonians had destroyed its protective towers.

The Fountain Gate (2:14; 3:15; 12:37) was located in the southern part of the eastern wall, presumably close to the Siloam Pool.

- 3:1-2 – Sheep Gate
- 3:3-5 – Fish Gate
- 3:6-12 – Old Gate
- 3:13 – Valley Gate to Dung Gate
- 3:14 – Dung Gate
- 3:15-27 – Fountain Gate
- 3:28-32 – Horse Gate to Inspection Gate to Sheep

This picture and the picture on page one both come from the *ESV Study Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 827-829.