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The List of the Builders of the Wall Nehemiah 3: 1-32

445 BC During the ministry of Nehemiah (**to see list click Bt – The Third Return**).
Compiled by: The Chronicler from the Ezra and Nehemiah memoirs (see **Ac – Ezra-Nehemiah from a Jewish Perspective: The Nehemiah Memoirs**)**.**



This chapter shows **Nehemiah** was an outstanding organizer. Some forty-five sections of construction are mentioned, including ten **gates (Nehemiah 3:1, 3, 6, 13-15, 26, 28-29, 31)**. Planning all this building activity, organizing the groups, plus arranging the infrastructure to supply the materials was no small accomplishment. **Nehemiah** had started the process of building **the community of believers (2:17-18)** before **he** could start building **the wall**. Then, in this chapter, **Nehemiah** skillfully divided the work force into some forty manageable work crews and organized by common interests and geography. The way **Nehemiah** confronted opposition from within and without the **Jewish** community and the way **he** organized **the Israelites** were significant ingredients in the realization of **his** vision.

Despite its mundane appearance, this chapter is more than a construction record. Although the walls and gates would serve a military purpose **(Nehemiah Chapter 4)**, the book's concern for separation from pagan influence suggests it also had

symbolic significance **(Nehemiah 13:19-22)**. Rather than simply providing security, **the walls** encouraged a sense of identity and distinctiveness with **the Righteous of the TaNaKh**. **Their** restoration also represented a reversal of the humiliation of defeat and destruction suffered because of **Isra'el's sin (Nehemiah 2:3** and **17)**. Like the restored Temple, it was as if **the** rebuilt **walls** were like a badge, or a further token, that **they** were indeed **His people**. For believers today, however, the cross is the continuing demonstration of **God's** powerful and loving presence **(Romans 5:5b-11).**[225]