

## Notes on Nehemiah 3

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Verses 1-32

1. What information is recorded in chap. 3?
2. What is said regarding the nobles in v5?
3. Application: What is the point of recording the information in this chapter? What lessons can we learn?

### *The assignments of the workers*

This chapter describes the labor of various groups who worked to rebuild the wall. Various people are named and their areas of labor are described. The description begins at the Sheep Gate, then moves section by section around the wall till it returns again to the Sheep Gate (cf. vv 1,32).

The only information worth special observation is v5, which says that some of the nobles did not put their necks to the work of the Lord. This appears to be a rebuke. Prosperous people often expect other people to work while they do as they please. They seem to think they are above menial labor. But this was a work for all to do, both for their own protection and for the good of the nation. Above all, it was a work God wanted done. We should all learn to work for the Lord without excuses.

### *Value of this information*

One may wonder why these details are recorded in Scripture. Surely such details are not necessary for us to know in order to be saved, so why did God include them? We may not know for sure all the reasons why, but here are some benefits the information has:

1) It demonstrates the **historical** nature of the record. Naming specific people and specific places where they worked, especially with such detailed descriptions, serves no purpose whatever unless the account is intended to be taken as history. This confirms that we should view the record as historic fact.

2) It shows that the work was done in an **organized** manner. This shows us the value of working for God in an organized way. Everyone should be given work to do, and each one should know what is expected of them.

3) It helps us appreciate the magnitude of the job.

4) It gives recognition and appreciation to the laborers. Each of them is permanently recorded by name in God's word.

There may someday be other value to the record that we cannot now foresee. Perhaps the description will someday be verified by archaeologists or will serve some other purpose in confirming Scripture.

In any case, God chose to record these people and their work for the sake of future information.

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