

Nehemiah 3:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the gate of the fountain repaired Shallun the son of Col-hozeh, the ruler of part of Mizpah; he built it, and covered it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof, and the wall of the pool of Siloah by the king's garden, and unto the stairs that go down from the city of David.

Analysis

But the gate of the fountain repaired Shallun the son of Col-hozeh, the ruler of part of Mizpah; he built it, and covered it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof, and the wall of the pool of Siloah by the king's garden, and unto the stairs that go down from the city of David.

This verse within Nehemiah 3 addresses themes of community, cooperation, diligence, stewardship. The detailed listing of builders demonstrates organized community effort where each person contributes according to ability and opportunity. The construction work (banah, בָּנָה) symbolizes restoring what sin and judgment destroyed. Jerusalem's wall (chomah, חֹמָה) provided security, dignity, and testimony to God's faithfulness. City gates were strategic both defensively and administratively, controlling access and serving as centers of commerce and justice. This passage demonstrates biblical principles applicable across both testaments—God's sovereignty combined with human responsibility, faith expressed through obedient action, and the necessity of both individual and corporate commitment to covenant faithfulness. Nehemiah models leadership that

combines vision, prayer, courage, integrity, and perseverance amid sustained opposition.

Historical Context

Nehemiah's account occurs during Persian imperial dominance (539-331 BC), specifically 445-433 BC under Artaxerxes I. The 52-day wall completion represents remarkable achievement given opposition and limited resources. Excavations have confirmed portions of Nehemiah's wall and various gates mentioned in the text. The Persian period was crucial transitional time when Jewish identity shifted from monarchical nationalism to Torah-centered covenantal community. Without political independence, the people's cohesion depended on shared scripture, temple worship, and covenant obedience. This established patterns persisting through the Second Temple period into New Testament times. Understanding this context illuminates Jesus's ministry among a people shaped by these reforms and challenges.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 3:15 deepen your understanding of God's character and His work in human history?
2. What specific action or attitude change does this verse call you to make in your walk with God?
3. How can the principles demonstrated in this passage inform your response to current challenges in your life or church?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	בֶּן	שָׁל וֹן	הָ, חֲזִיק	הַעַיִן	שַׁעַר	וְאֵת
H0	H1121	H7968	H2388	H5869	H8179	H853
	the son	Shallun	repaired	of the fountain	But the gate	
וַיִּטְלֵל נֹו	יָבֵן נֹו	הָ וְאֵ	הַמִּצְפָּה	פֶּלֶךְ	שֶׁר	חֲזָה
H2926	H1129	H1931	H4709	H6418	H8269	H3626
it and covered	he built		of Mizpah	of part	the ruler	of Colhozeh
וְאֵת	וּבָרִים יֹו	מִנְעָל יֹו	דִּלְתֵּת יֹו	וַיַּעֲמִיד וְ		
H853	H1280	H4514	H1817	H5975		
	thereof and the bars	thereof the locks	the doors	it and set up		
וְעַד	הַמֶּלֶךְ	לְגַן	הַשֶּׁלַח	בְּרֶכַת	חוֹמַת	
H5704	H4428	H1588	H7975	H1295	H2346	
	by the king's	garden	of Siloah	of the pool	thereof and the wall	
דָּוִיד:	מֵעַיִר	הַיּוֹרֵד	וְעַל	וְאֵת		
H1732	H5892	H3381	H4609			
of David	from the city	that go down	and unto the stairs			

Additional Cross-References

John 9:7 (Parallel theme): And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

Isaiah 8:6 (Parallel theme): Forasmuch as this people refuseth the waters of Shiloah that go softly, and rejoice in Rezin and Remaliah's son;

Nehemiah 12:37 (References David): And at the fountain gate, which was over against them, they went up by the stairs of the city of David, at the going up of the wall, above the house of David, even unto the water gate eastward.

Nehemiah 2:14 (Kingdom): Then I went on to the gate of the fountain, and to the king's pool: but there was no place for the beast that was under me to pass.

Luke 13:4 (Parallel theme): Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?

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