

# 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

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**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

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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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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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

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כָּל בְּנֵי שָׁלֹוּן שָׁעַר וְאֶת  
But the gate of the fountain repaired Shallun the son  
H853 H8179 H5869 H2388 H7968 H1121 H0

וַיַּעֲלֶל כֵּן בָּנֵן כִּי חִזְׁה  
of Colhozeh the ruler of part of Mizpah he built it and covered  
H3626 H8269 H6418 H4709 H1931 H1129 H2926

וְאֶת וּבְרִיכָּה מִתְּעַלֵּל וְלֹתָתָת יְיָ יְעַמֵּד  
it and set up the doors thereof the locks thereof and the bars  
H5975 H1817 H4514 H1280 H853

וְעַד בְּמִלְחָמָה כִּי בְּרַכְתָּה שְׁלֹמֹחַ לְגַן  
thereof and the wall of the pool of Siloah garden by the king's  
H2346 H1295 H7975 H1588 H4428 H5704

וְעַד בְּמִלְחָמָה כִּי בְּרַכְתָּה שְׁלֹמֹחַ לְגַן  
and unto the stairs that go down from the city of David  
H4609 H3381 H5892 H1732

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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