

# Nehemiah 3:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After him Baruch the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired the other piece, from the turning of the wall unto the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.

## Analysis

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**After him Baruch the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired the other piece, from the turning of the wall unto the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.**

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. Jerusalem's wall (chomah, חֹמָה) provided security, dignity, and testimony to God's faithfulness. 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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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does Nehemiah 3:20 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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אַחֲרַי	הָעֵסֶרָה	קִיָּץ יָקַד	בָּר וְ	בֶּן	זַבַּי	מִדָּה
After	earnestly	repaired	him Baruch	the son	of Zabbai	piece
H310	H2734	H2388	H1263	H1121	H2079	H4060
שֵׁנִי יֵת	מִן	הַמִּקְצָוֶה	עַד	פֶּתַח	בֵּית	
the other	H4480	from the turning	H5704	of the wall unto the door	of the house	
H8145		H4740		H6607	H1004	
אֵלִישָׁבַב	הַכֹּהֵן	הַגָּדוֹל:				
of Eliashib	priest	the high				
H475	H3548	H1419				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Nehemiah 3:1** (Parallel theme): Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel.

**Ecclesiastes 9:10** (Parallel theme): Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

**Romans 12:11** (Parallel theme): Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

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