

# Nehemiah 3:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And between the going up of the corner unto the sheep gate repaired the goldsmiths and the merchants.

## Analysis

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**And between the going up of the corner unto the sheep gate repaired the goldsmiths and the merchants.**

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. 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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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does Nehemiah 3:32 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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|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------------|
| וּבֵין        | עֹלֵי ת                  | הַפֶּנֶה          | לְשַׁעַר | הַצֵּאֵן       |
| H996          | And between the going up | of the corner     | gate     | unto the sheep |
|               | H5944                    | H6438             | H8179    | H6629          |
| הִחְזָק יְקוֹ | הַצֹּרֵף יָם             | וְהַרְכָּלִים:    |          |                |
| repaired      | the goldsmiths           | and the merchants |          |                |
| H2388         | H6884                    | H7402             |          |                |

## 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.

**Nehemiah 12:39** (Parallel theme): And from above the gate of Ephraim, and above the old gate, and above the fish gate, and the tower of Hananeel, and the tower of Meah, even unto the sheep gate: and they stood still in the prison gate.

**John 5:2** (Parallel theme): Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.

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