

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah.

Now it happened in the month Chislev, *in*
the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the
capitol,

Nehemiah 1:1–6

that Hanani, one of my brothers, and some men from Judah came; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped *and* had survived the captivity, and about Jerusalem.

They said to me, "The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire."

When I heard these words, I sat down and wept
and mourned for days; and I was fasting
and praying before the God of heaven.

I said, "I beseech You, O LORD God of heaven,
the great and awesome God, who
preserves the covenant and lovingkindness
for those who love Him and keep His
commandments,

let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes
open to hear the prayer of Your servant
which I am praying before You now, day
and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel
Your servants, confessing the sins of the
sons of Israel which we have sinned against
You; I and my father's house have sinned.

And it came about in the month Nisan,
in the twentieth year of King
Artaxerxes, that wine was before
him, and I took up the wine and
gave it to the king. Now I had not
been sad in his presence.

Nehemiah 2:1–5

So the king said to me, "Why is your face sad though you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart." Then I was very much afraid.

I said to the king, "Let the king live forever. Why should my face not be sad when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies desolate and its gates have been consumed by fire?"

Then the king said to me, "What would you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven.

I said to the king, "If it please the king,
and if your servant has found favor
before you, send me to Judah, to
the city of my fathers' tombs, that I
may rebuild it."

**We have access to the King of Kings for
assistance**

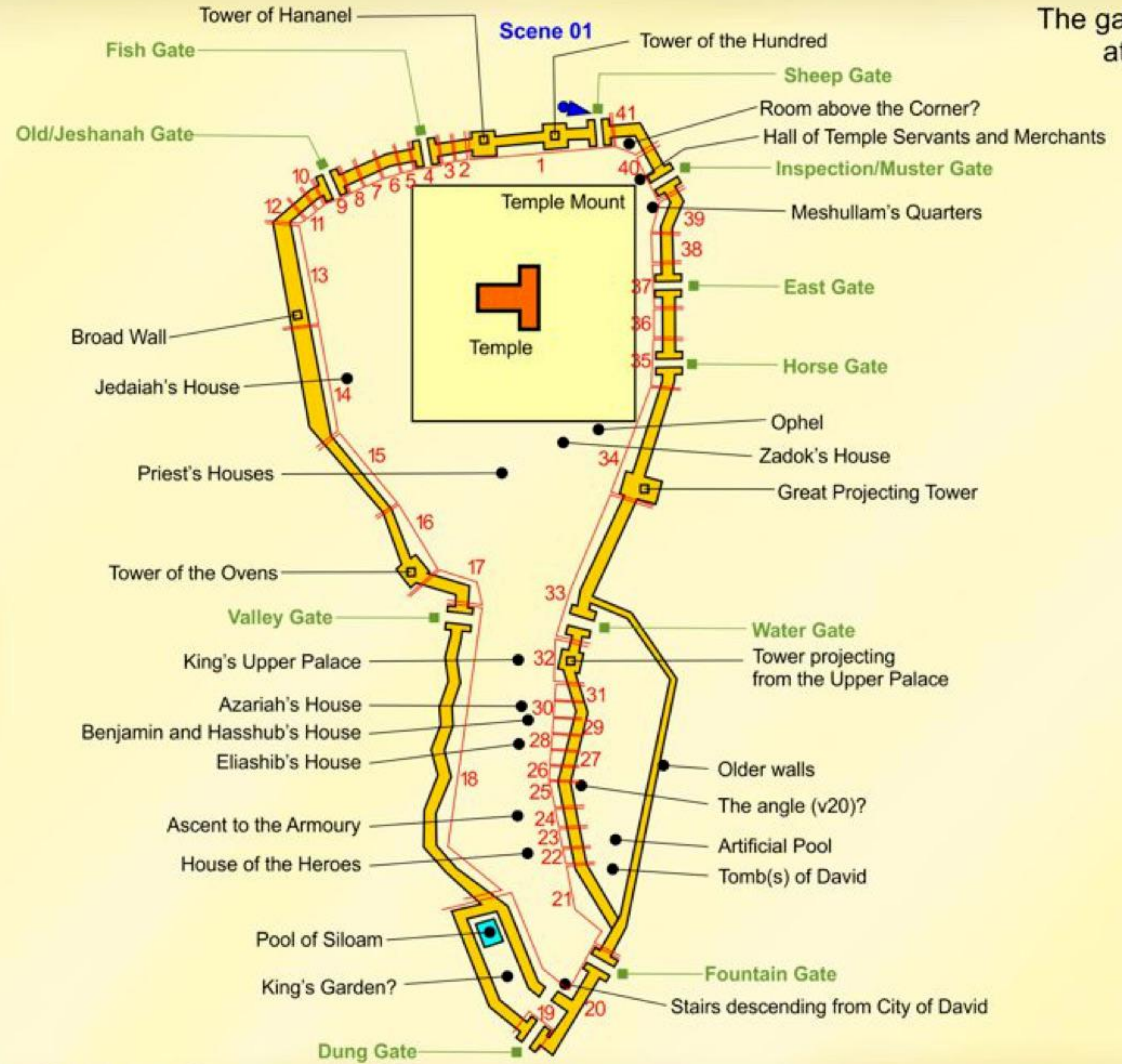
Then I said to them, "You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a reproach."

Nehemiah 2:17–18

I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me and also about the king's words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let us arise and build." So they put their hands to the good *work*.

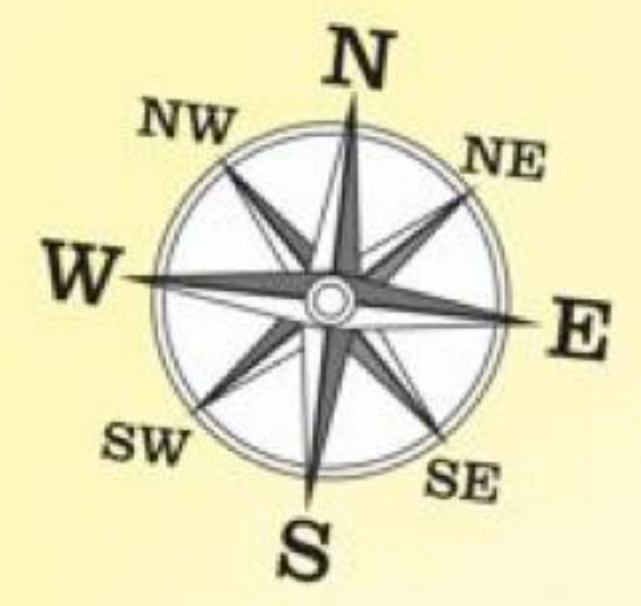
**Everyone had a part in rebuilding the wall
(45 different groups!)**

The gates and walls of Jerusalem at the time of Nehemiah



Red lines & numbers indicate the 41 wall & gate sections mentioned in Nehemiah chp3.

Position & direction of view in each scene



Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews.

Nehemiah 4:1–3

He spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy *men* of Samaria and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore *it* for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?"

Now Tobiah the Ammonite *was* near him and he said, “Even what they are building—if a fox should jump on *it*, he would break their stone wall down!”

Prophecy into situations that seem impossible.

**Even those who don't believe in God
believe in the power of positive thinking
and speaking.**

That's why we have this Scripture text:

No one's ever seen or heard anything like this,
Never so much as imagined anything quite
like it—

What God has arranged for those who love
him.

1 Corinthians 2:9–12

But *you've* seen and heard it because God by his Spirit has brought it all out into the open before you.

The Spirit, not content to flit around on the surface, dives into the depths of God, and brings out what God planned all along.

Who ever knows what you're thinking and planning except you yourself? The same with God—except that he not only knows what he's thinking,

but he lets *us* in on it. God offers a full report on the gifts of life and salvation that he is giving us.

**We have received a new spirit, which
means a new mind, too!**

Hear, O our God, how we are despised! Return their reproach on their own heads and give them up for plunder in a land of captivity.

Nehemiah 4:4–5

Do not forgive their iniquity and
let not their sin be blotted
out before You, for they have
demoralized the builders.

So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to half its *height*, for the people had a mind to work.

Nehemiah 4:6

Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs,
the Ammonites and the
Ashdodites heard that the repair
of the walls of Jerusalem went on,
and that the breaches began to be
closed, they were very angry.

Nehemiah 4:7–8

All of them conspired together to
come *and* fight against Jerusalem
and to cause a disturbance in it.

But we prayed to our God, and
because of them we set up
a guard against them day
and night.

Nehemiah 4:9

Thus in Judah it was said,
“The strength of the burden
bearers is failing,
Yet there is much rubbish;
And we ourselves are unable
To rebuild the wall.”

Nehemiah 4:10

Discouragement can lead us to become unwitting partners with our enemy's agenda.

Have you ever partnered with the enemy speaking into your own life or someone else's life?

Our enemies said, "They will not know or see until we come among them, kill them and put a stop to the work."

Nehemiah 4:11–12

When the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times, "They will come up against us from every place where you may turn,"

then I stationed *men* in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, the exposed places, and I stationed the people in families with their swords, spears and bows.

Nehemiah 4:13

We come along side those who are hurting
and those who are in need of help and
defend them from the enemy so that they
can have their part in rebuilding the wall

We don't do the work for them so that they
too can have the joy of rebuilding!

Where do you see low places? What are you doing?

When I saw *their fear*, I rose and spoke to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people: "Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your houses."

Nehemiah 4:14

WE BECOME WHAT WE BEHOLD

BEHOLD FEAR OR BEHOLD GOD?

REMEMBER (your past testimonies/what God has done)

REMEMBER this is so much bigger than just a fight for myself, it's a fight for our families.

When our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had frustrated their plan, then all of us returned to the wall, each one to his work.

Nehemiah 4:15

From that day on, half of my servants carried on the work while half of them held the spears, the shields, the bows and the breastplates; and the captains *were* behind the whole house of Judah.

Nehemiah 4:16–23

Those who were rebuilding the wall
and those who carried burdens
took *their* load with one hand
doing the work and the other
holding a weapon.

As for the builders, each wore his sword girded at his side as he built, while the trumpeter *stood* near me.

I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "The work is great and extensive, and we are separated on the wall far from one another.

“At whatever place you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.”

So we carried on the work with half of them holding spears from dawn until the stars appeared.

At that time I also said to the people,
“Let each man with his servant
spend the night within Jerusalem
so that they may be a guard for
us by night and a laborer by day.”

So neither I, my brothers, my servants,
nor the men of the guard who
followed me, none of us
removed our clothes, each *took*
his weapon *even to* the water.

Some were building, some were working,
but all were united in one purpose to see
the walls rebuilt.

**Be MOVED with compassion, even if it's a
small move**

Now when it was reported to Sanballat, Tobiah, to Geshem the Arab and to the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall, and *that* no breach remained in it, although at that time I had not set up the doors in the gates,

Nehemiah 6:1–4

then Sanballat and Geshem sent a *message* to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together at Chephirim in the plain of Ono." But they were planning to harm me.

So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?"

They sent *messages* to me four times in this manner, and I answered them in the same way.

Our goal is to live like Nehemiah = to literally build a reputation.

When I entered the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was confined at home, he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you, and they are coming to kill you at night."

Nehemiah 6:10–11

But I said, "Should a man like me flee? And could one such as I go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in."

For just as we have many
members in one body and
all the members do not
have the same function,

Romans 12:4–5

so we, who are many, are one
body in Christ, and
individually members one
of another.



Nehemiah didn't and couldn't build the wall alone.

What needs finished in your life today?

Where are the low-places around you?

Can you look around and see others who have unfinished low-places?

Are you trying to build it on your own?

**Have you partnered with God and others
to see it finished?**

**WE ARE NOT JUST BUILDING THE WALLS,
BUT WE ARE THE WALLS**

So then you are no longer
strangers and aliens, but
you are fellow citizens with
the saints, and are of God's
household,

Ephesians 2:19–22

having been built on the
foundation of the apostles
and prophets, Christ Jesus
Himself being the corner
stone,

in whom the whole building,
being fitted together, is
growing into a holy temple
in the Lord,

in whom you also are being built
together into a dwelling of
God in the Spirit.

What is our focus? What is our purpose?

Now the city was large and spacious, but the people in it were few and the houses were not built.

Nehemiah 7:4

INVITE MORE PEOPLE IN. DON'T DESPISE
THE SMALL BEGINNINGS, BE MOVED
WITH COMPASSION.

**You may not be able to build an entire wall,
but you can move a stone today.**

