

# Nehemiah 3

<sup>1</sup> Eliashib the High Priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the **Sheep Gate**. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel. <sup>2</sup> The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zaccur son of Imri built next to them.

<sup>3</sup> The **Fish Gate** was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. <sup>4</sup> Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired the next section. Next to him Meshullam son of Berekiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs, and next to him Zadok son of Baana also made repairs. <sup>5</sup> The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their nobles would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors.

<sup>6</sup> The **Jeshanah Gate** was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. <sup>7</sup> Next to them, repairs were made by men from Gibeon and Mizpah-Melatiah of Gibeon and Jadon of Meronoth - places under the authority of the governor of Trans-Euphrates. <sup>8</sup> Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the next section; and Hananiah, one of the perfume-makers, made repairs next to that. They restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. <sup>9</sup> Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section. <sup>10</sup> Adjoining this, Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house, and Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs next to him. <sup>11</sup> Malkijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. <sup>12</sup> Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section with the help of his daughters.

<sup>13</sup> The **Valley Gate** was repaired by Hanun and the residents of Zanoah. They rebuilt it and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. They also repaired a thousand cubits<sup>[1]</sup> of the wall as far as the Dung Gate.

<sup>14</sup> The **Dung Gate** was repaired by Malkijah son of Recab, ruler of the district of Beth Hakkerem. He rebuilt it and put its doors and bolts and bars in place.

<sup>15</sup> The **Fountain Gate** was repaired by Shallun son of Col-Hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah. He rebuilt it, roofing it over and putting its doors and bolts and bars in place. He also repaired the wall of the Pool of Siloam, by the King's Garden, as far as the steps going down from the City of David. <sup>16</sup> Beyond him, Nehemiah son of

Azbuk, ruler of a half-district of Beth Zur, made repairs up to a point opposite the tomb of David, as far as the artificial pool and the House of the Heroes. <sup>17</sup> Next to him, the repairs were made by the Levites under Rehum son of Bani. Beside him, Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah, carried out repairs for his district. <sup>18</sup> Next to him, the repairs were made by their countrymen under Binnui<sup>[ii]</sup> son of Henadad, ruler of the other half-district of Keilah. <sup>19</sup> Next to him, Ezer son of Jeshua, ruler of Mizpah, repaired another section, from a point facing the ascent to the armory as far as the angle. <sup>20</sup> Next to him, Baruch son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the angle to the entrance of the house of Eliashib the high priest. <sup>21</sup> Next to him, Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired another section, from the entrance of Eliashib's house to the end of it.

<sup>22</sup> The repairs next to him were made by the priests from the surrounding region. <sup>23</sup> Beyond them, Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs in front of their house; and next to them, Azariah son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, made repairs beside his house. <sup>24</sup> Next to him, Binnui<sup>[ii]</sup> son of Henadad repaired another section, from Azariah's house to the angle and the corner, <sup>25</sup> and Palal son of Uzai worked opposite the angle and the tower projecting from the upper palace near the court of the guard. Next to him, Pedaiah son of Parosh <sup>26</sup> and the temple servants living on the hill of Ophel made repairs up to a point opposite the **Water Gate** toward the east and the projecting tower. <sup>27</sup> Next to them, the men of Tekoa repaired another section, from the great projecting tower to the wall of Ophel.

<sup>28</sup> Above the **Horse Gate**, the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house. <sup>29</sup> Next to them, Zadok son of Immer made repairs opposite his house. Next to him, Shemaiah son of Shecaniah, the guard at the **East Gate**, made repairs. <sup>30</sup> Next to him, Hananiah son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. Next to them, Meshullam son of Berekiah made repairs opposite his living quarters. <sup>31</sup> Next to him, Malkijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the temple servants and the merchants, opposite the **Inspection Gate**, and as far as the room above the corner; <sup>32</sup> and between the room above the corner and the **Sheep Gate** the goldsmiths and merchants made repairs.

<sup>i</sup> That is about 450 meters or 500 feet.

<sup>ii</sup> Most Hebrew manuscripts have *Bavvai*.

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**The Gates of Jerusalem that are mentioned in Nehemiah Ch 3**

**1) The Sheep Gate (v. 1 & 32)**

**2) The Fish Gate (v. 3)**

**3) The Jeshanah Gate (v. 6)**

**4) The Valley Gate (v. 13)**

**5) The Dung Gate (v. 14)**

**6) The Fountain Gate (v. 15)**

**7) The Water Gate (v. 26)**

**8) The Horse Gate (v. 28)**

**9) The East Gate (v. 29)**

**10) The Gate of Miphkad (v. 31)**

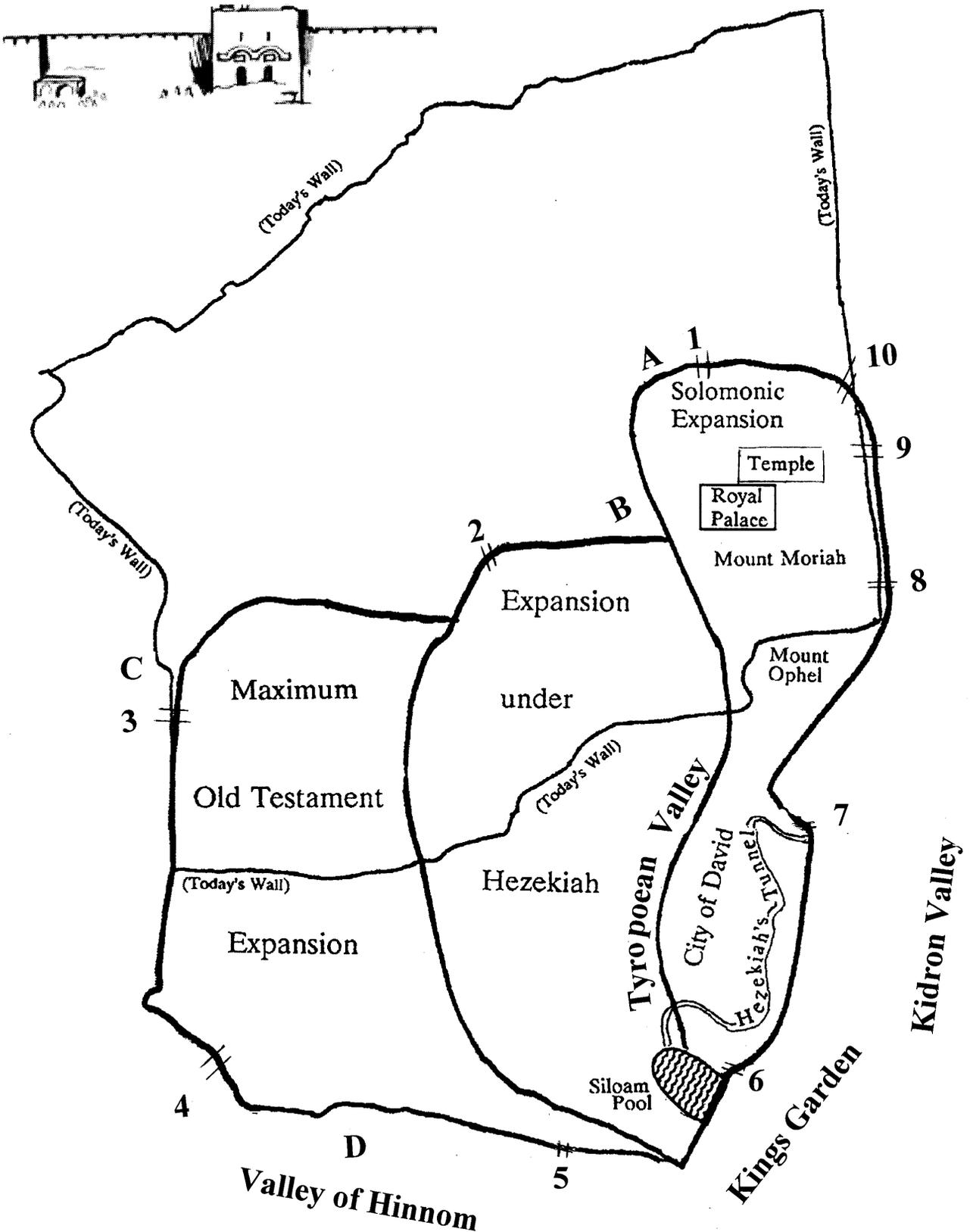
**A. Tower of Meah**

**B. Tower of Hananel**

**C. Tower of Furnace**

**D. Dragon Well**

# Jerusalem in the days of Nehemiah



## Some Bible Facts, Figures and Quotes regarding the Gates:

- Lot was found sitting in the gates of the city of Sodom when the angels came (**Genesis 19**).
- Abraham made his deals at the gates of a city (**Genesis 23**).
- The city gate was also for handling legal matters (**Deuteronomy 21-22**).
- The gates of a city were built in such a way such that the defenders of the city would always outnumber whoever attacked a city. This was because only a few attackers could come through the gates, they were built so that the defenders of the city could easily replace their soldiers if they were injured or killed. This must have been in mind when the people attempted to spring a surprise attack on Samson when he entered the city gates at night (**Judges 16**).
- In the description of a godly woman it was said that her husband was well known in the gates of the city, and that her works were praised there as well (**Proverbs 31**).
- Boaz went to the town gate to settle legal matters regarding the acquisition of land and his marriage to Ruth (**Ruth 4:1-11**).
- When a soldier arrived at Shiloh and reported that Philistines had captured the Ark of the Covenant, Eli, as a prominent city official, was sitting in the gate. When he heard the news, he fell off his chair, broke his neck, and died (**1 Samuel 4:10-18**).
- King David stood by the gate when giving last minute instructions to his army, before their fight against Absalom. After Absalom's death, David returned to his place at the gate, and the people came to him (**2 Samuel 18:1-5; 19:1-8**).
- Mordechai learned of plans to assassinate the king while "sitting at the King's gate," which indicates that he was a community leader. He told queen Esther, who in turn told the king (**Esther 2:5-8, 19-23**).
- The biblical term, "to be within the gates," referred to being under the authority of the elders of the city, who presided in the gates (**Deuteronomy 22:15; 25:7**). In battle, to "possess the gates" was to possess the city (**Genesis 22:17; 24:60**).
- In the New Testament we read (**Matthew 16:18**), "...Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
- In **Revelation 21:12** we read about the New Jerusalem: "It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel."
- But for me the most outstanding gate reference in the Bible is found in **Psalm 24**.

*A Psalm of David.*

<sup>1</sup> The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; <sup>2</sup> for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

<sup>3</sup> Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in His holy place?

<sup>4</sup> He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.

<sup>5</sup> He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God His Saviour.

<sup>6</sup> Such is the generation of those who seek Him, <sup>7</sup> **Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**

<sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

<sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. <sup>10</sup> Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty He is the King of glory.

*Selah*