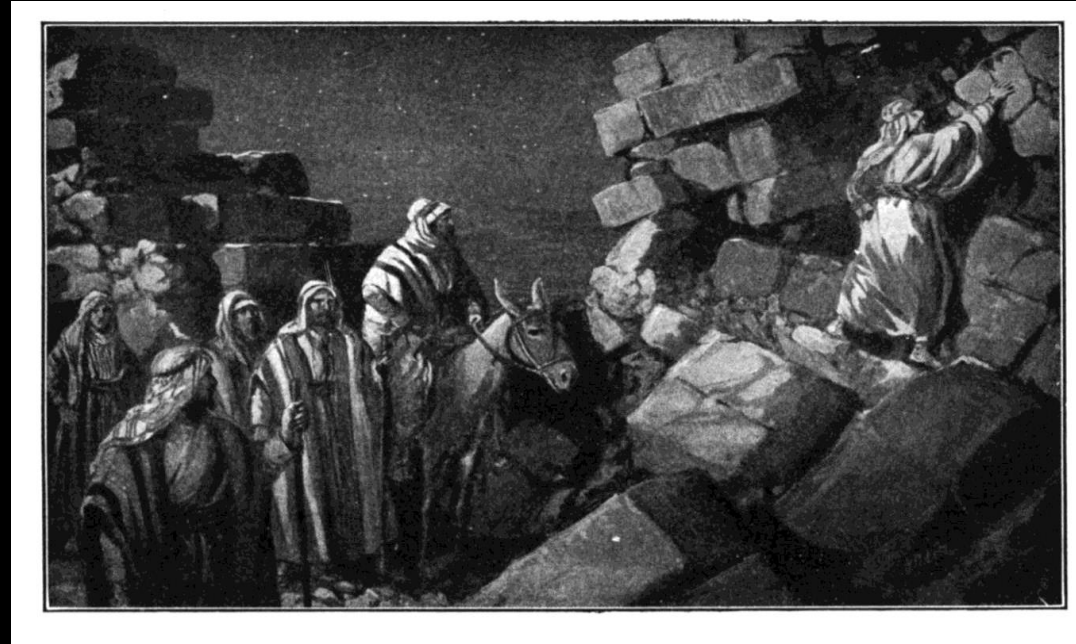


A Time to Build



A Study of the Books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther

Key Dates and Events in the Period of the Return*

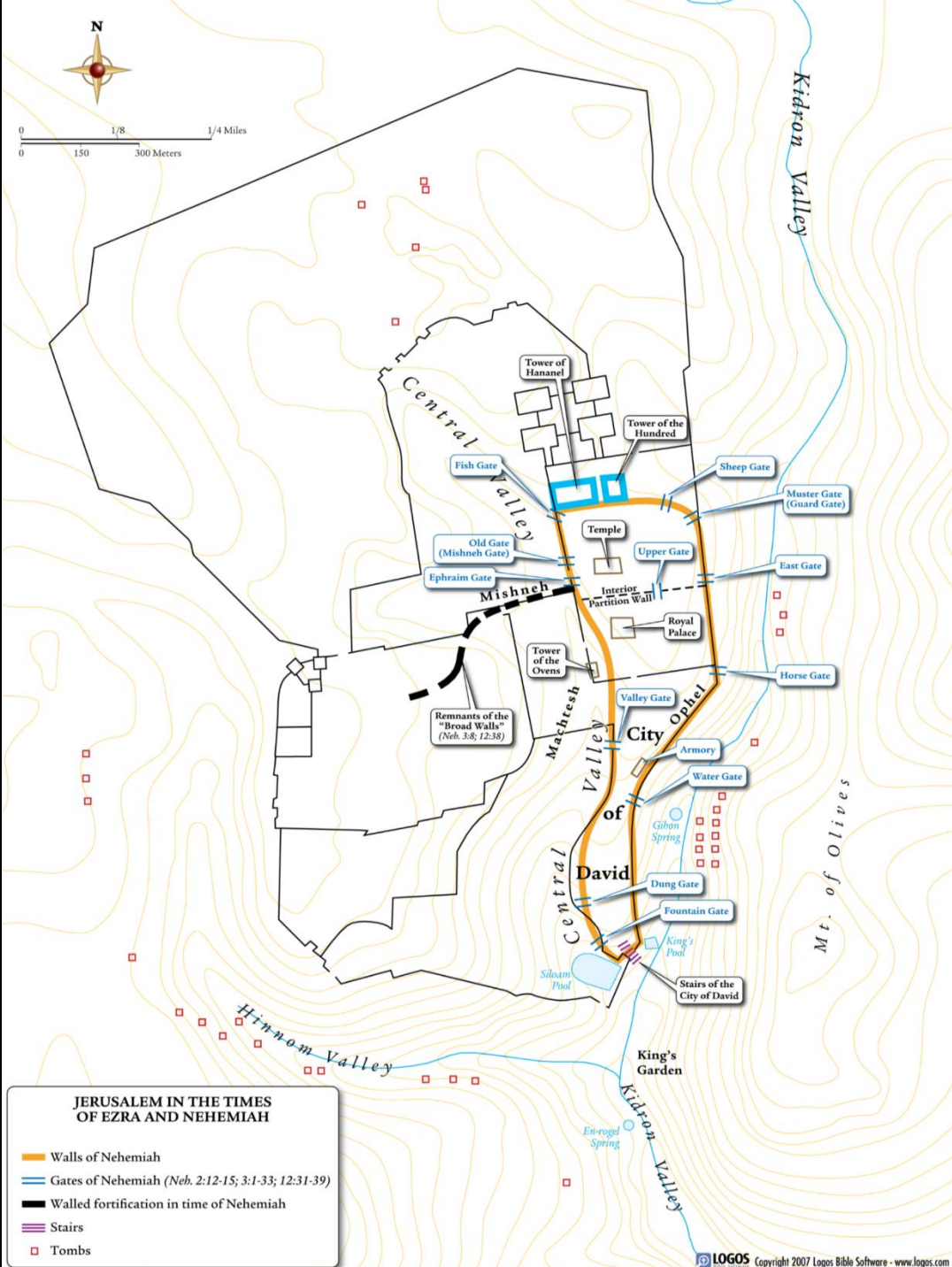
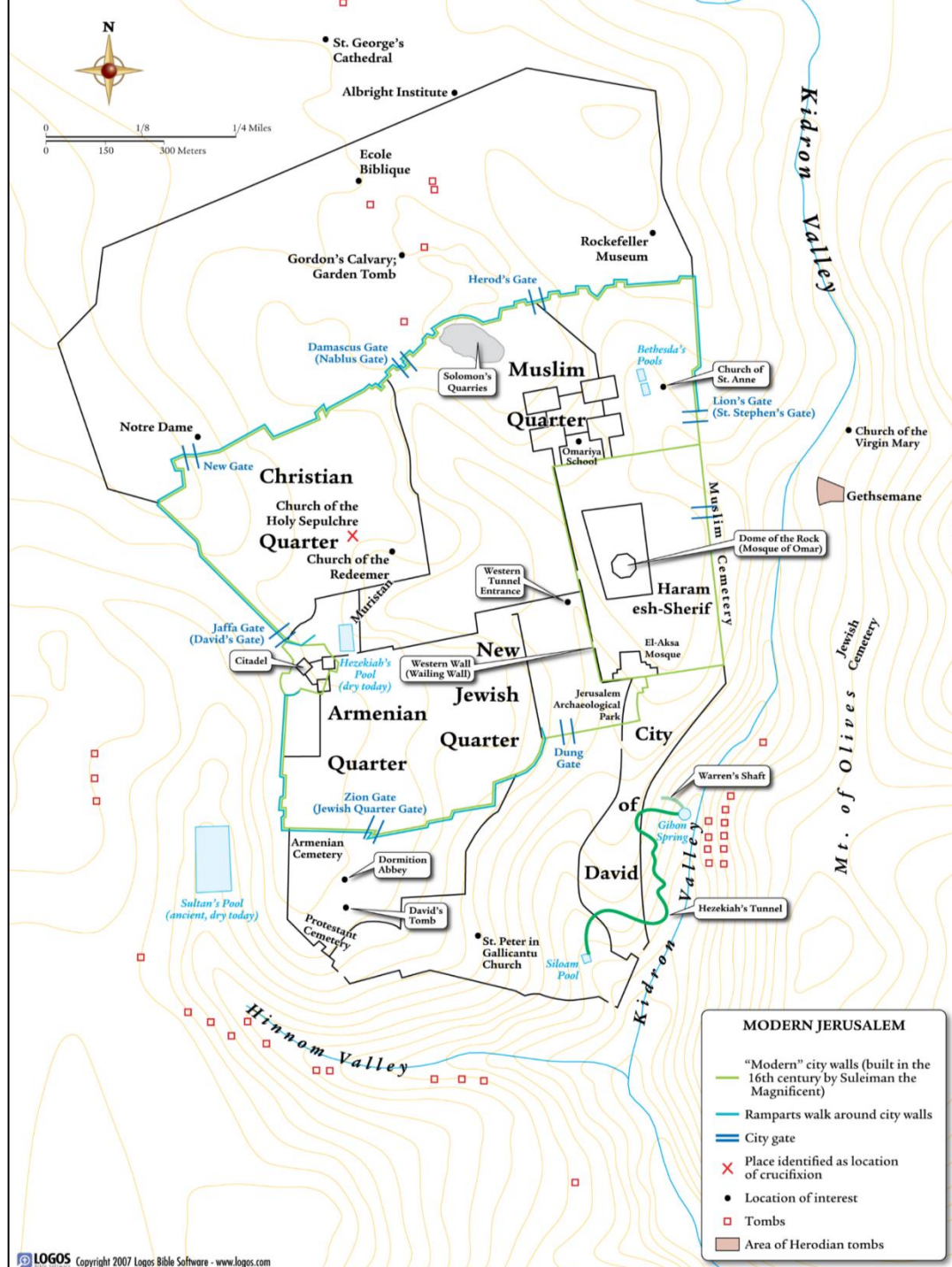
- 538/37 B.C. first return of the Jews under Zerubbabel (Ezra 1-2)
- 537/36 B.C. the altar built and the foundation laid (Ezra 3)
- 536/15-520 B.C. the work on the temple ceases (Ezra 4)
- 520 B.C. the preaching of Haggai (1-2) and Zechariah (1-6)
- 520 B.C. the temple construction resumes (Ezra 5)
- 518 B.C. the preaching of Zechariah (Zechariah 7-14)
- 516/15 B.C. the temple is completed (Ezra 6)
- 486 B.C. the Jews opposed in the beginning of Xerxes (Ezra 4:6)
- 483 B.C. Xerxes holds a feast (Esther 1)
- 479 B.C. Esther is made queen (Esther 2)
- 474/73 B.C. Haman plans to kill the Jews (Esther 3-10)
- 464-423 B.C. the Jews opposed in Artaxerxes' reign (Ezra 4:7ff)
- 458/57 B.C. the second return of the Jews under Ezra (Ezra 7-10)
- 445-433 B.C. Nehemiah returns & rebuilds the walls (Neh. 1-12)
- 433-432 B.C. Nehemiah's recall and return (Nehemiah 13)
- 432-425 B.C. the preaching of Malachi (1-4)

* all dates are approximate

Survey of Nehemiah

Reconstruction of the Walls 1:1 – 7:73		Reformation of the People 8:1 – 13:31	
Preparation to Build (1-2)	Reconstruction of the Walls (3-7)	Preparation to Reform (8-9)	Reformation of the People (10-13)
Nehemiah / Jews		Ezra / Nehemiah / Jews	
Physical Construction		Spiritual Instruction	
From Babylon to Jerusalem		Jerusalem	

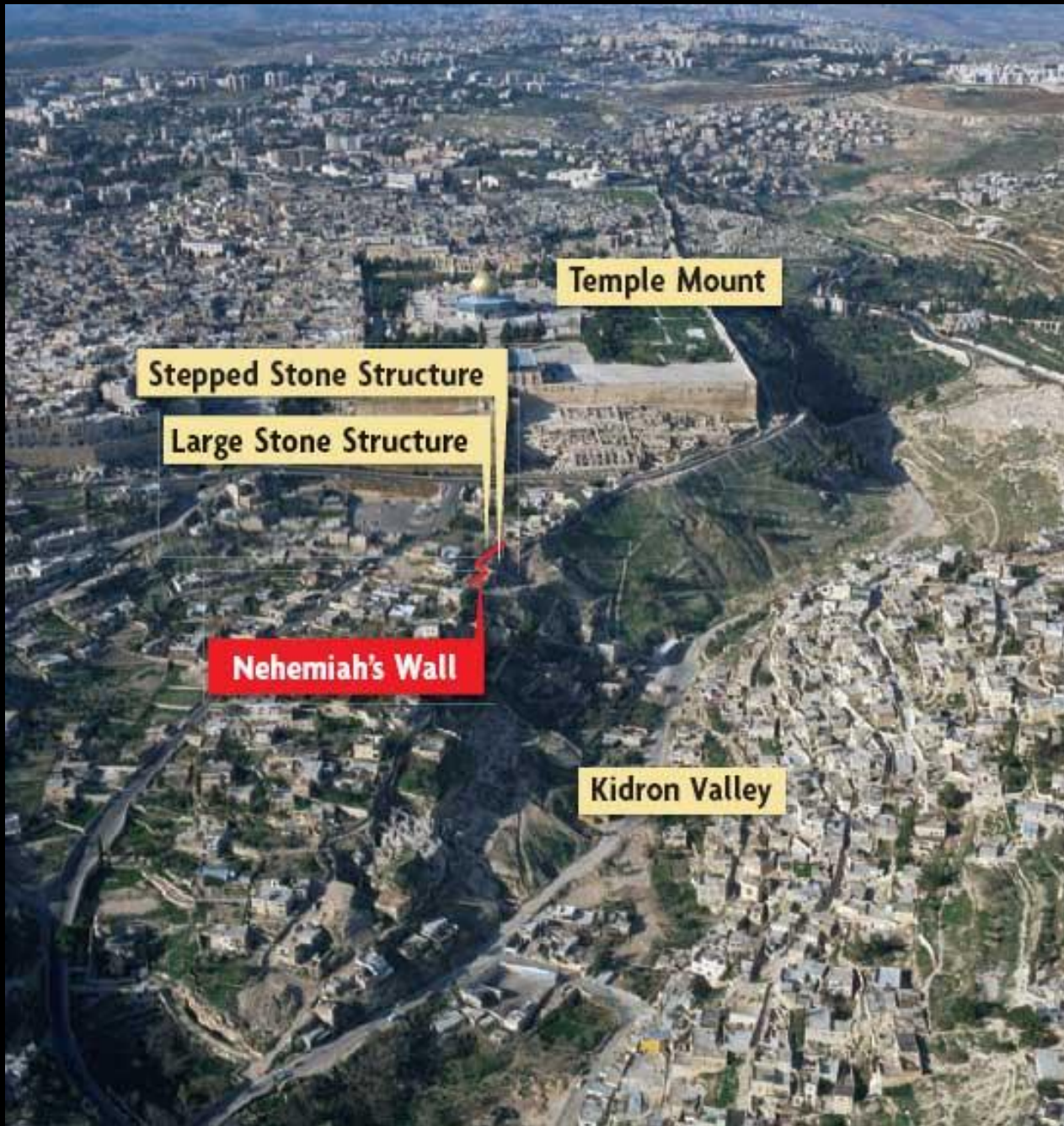
12 years + (445 – 433 – 425 B.C.)

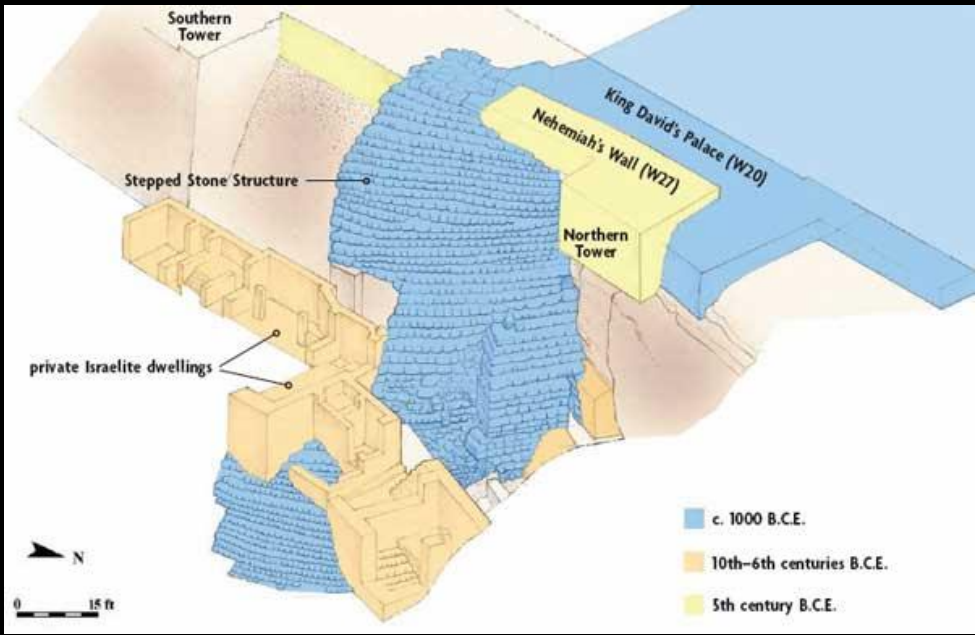


Kathleen Kenyon Excavates Nehemiah's Wall, 1961-67



Eilat Mazar Excavates Nehemiah's Wall, 2007







The Northern Section

(3:1-5)



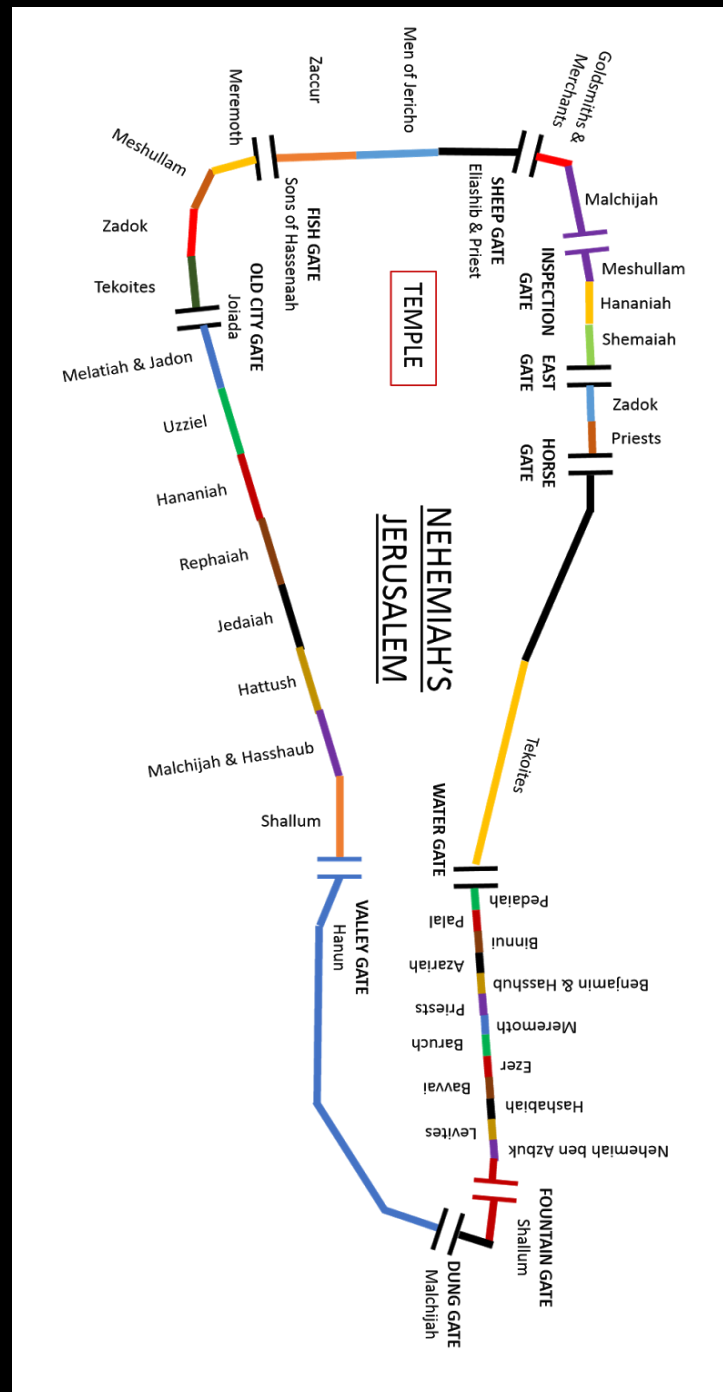
The Western Section

(3:6-13)



The Southern Section

(3:14)



The Eastern Section

(3:15-32)



Applications for Today

1. There is still building that must be done today in the Lord's church (3:1-3; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; Eph. 2:21-22; 4:12, 17; Col. 2:7; Jude 20).
2. You may be skilled to do one kind of work in life, but you can also do other kinds of work too (3:1, 8, 9, 12, 31-32; Acts 18:3-4).

Applications for Today

3. It is important to work “next to” each other in unity and as fellow-workers to accomplish the Lord’s work (3:2, 4; etc.; Rom. 16:3; 1 Cor. 3:9; Phil. 4:3; Col. 4:11; Philemon 24; 3 Jn. 8).
4. Some work that needs to be done is the work of repairing what has already been built (3:4-32; Gal. 6:1; Jas. 5:19-20).

Applications for Today

5. There will always be some people who don't want to do the Lord's work, but don't let that keep you from doing it yourself (3:5; Rom. 12:11; 1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9).
6. Some people are so earnest in their work that they do more – “another portion” – than what is expected (3:11, 19-21, 24, 27, 30; Philemon 21).

Applications for Today

7. Get your family involved as much as possible in doing the Lord's work (3:12; Acts 21:5).

Four Work Principles Found in Nehemiah 3

1. The need to “build” and “set up” – new work
2. The need to work “next to” others – cooperative work
3. The need to “repair” – restore previous work
4. The need to do “another portion” – extra work

Leadership Qualities in Nehemiah 3

1. Talk with as many people as possible and get them to use their own talents to work together (3:1ff)
2. Share the work load; don't do it all yourself (3:1ff)
3. Encourage the next generation of young people to be active (3:12)

Opposition to God's Work (Neh. 2-6)

1. Negative environment
(2:10)
2. Ridicule / questioning
(2:19)
3. Lack of help among your
own people (3:5)