

REPAIR REBUILD REINFORCE

NEHEMIAH



NEHEMIAH

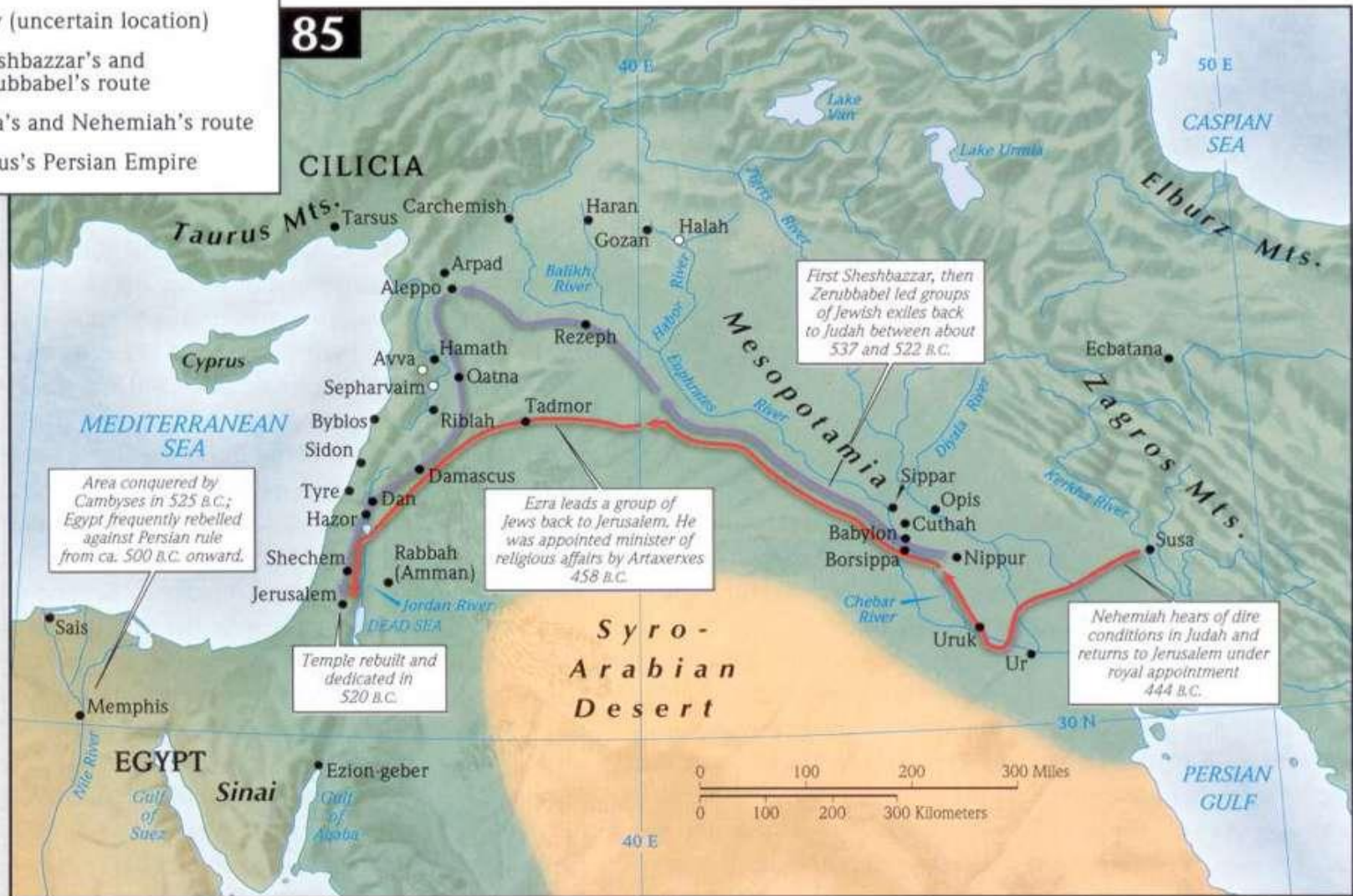
| | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|----------------|---------------------|------------|
| | <div> <div> Cupbearer to the King Prayer May I? You may! <i>CHAPTERS</i> 1:1-2:10 </div> <div> Builder of the Wall “So the wall was completed . . . in fifty-two days.” (6:15) <i>CHAPTERS</i> 2:11-6:19 </div> <div> Governor of the People Scripture found (7:5) read (8:3-7) explained (8:8) Lives changed (8:1-3, 9; 10:28-31) Nation confronted and cleansed (13:10-30) <i>CHAPTERS</i> 7-13 </div> </div> | | | |
| Location | Susa, Persia | | Jerusalem in Judah | |
| Focus | Leadership of a man | | Revival of a nation | |
| Subject | Burden | Project | Scriptures | Reforms |
| Difficulties | The King | Enemies | Tradition | Compromise |
| Victories | Release | Accomplishment | Obedience | Changes |
| Theme | Nehemiah's trust in the covenant-keeping God | | | |
| Key Verses | 6:15-16; 8:8-10; 9:1-38 | | | |
| Christ in Nehemiah | Suggested in Nehemiah, who leaves an exalted position to identify with the plight of his people and lead them into restoration; pictured in Nehemiah's prayerful dependence on God | | | |

THE RETURNS OF JEWISH EXILES TO JUDAH

THE EDICT OF CYRUS: EZRA 1:2-4; 6:1-4
see also EZRA 1:5-8:35

NEH. 1-3

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ← Sheshbazzar's and Zerubbabel's route
- Ezra's and Nehemiah's route
- Cyrus's Persian Empire



Five things about Nehemiah's character:

1. He is a responsible man. He is the cup bearing to the king of Persia, Artaxerxes 1. Big position. When he comes back to Judah, he will be appointed governor of the province in 444BC. (ch. 5) Big position.
2. He is a man of vision. He sees the need. He has the vision to go and rebuild the walls. He sees what needs to be done.
3. He was a man of action. He not only sees what needs to be done. But he also saw how to do it. Many people will tell you what you ought to do or what they think the group needs to do. But when it comes time to do the work, they just don't have the time or desire to do any of the work. You see vision without action is only a dream.
4. He was a man of prayer. All the way through this book, there are at least 10 prayers listed. That is what he did all the time. Pray. Nehemiah turns things to God.
5. He was a man of compassion. He is pretty important. He is the governor, he is the one in charge of the entire building project, but he also had compassion for the poor people. For all the people.

PRINCIPLES OF LEADERSHIP – Chapter 1

1. A leader draws His strength from outside himself. That's God. They never do anything in their own power. It is always in God's power.
2. A leader identifies with those he leads. Nehemiah confessed 'we have blown it.'
3. A leader takes responsibility. He says 'I am going to go. I am going to do.' There is an old saying that says 'pray as if everything depends upon God and work as if everything depends on you.' Take it to the Lord and do all you can do. In His power of course.

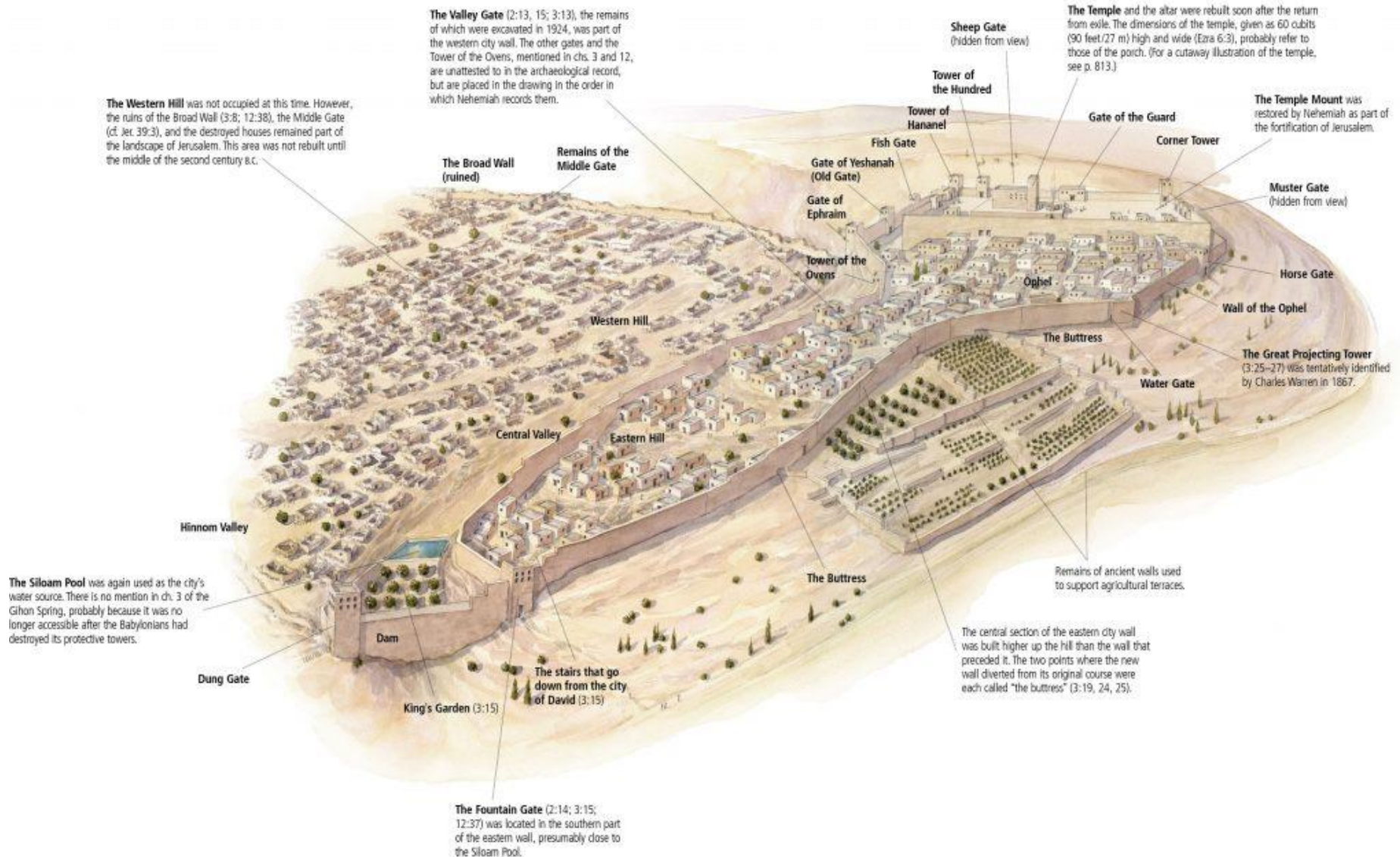
PRINCIPLES OF LEADERSHIP – Chapter 2

1. A good leader surveys the situation before he starts. He will check things out first.
2. A good leader motivates the people before he delegates responsibility. He gets the people ready to do it, before he tells them what to do.



Nehemiah's nighttime ride (inspects the city's walls)

The Tower of Hananel, the Tower of the Hundred, the Sheep Gate, the Gate of the Guard, and the Corner Tower added strength to the northern wall of the Temple Mount, which also served as the northern city wall in this area.



Jerusalem (after Nehemiah rebuilt the city's walls & gates)



Gihon Spring



Hezekiah's Tunnel

Here are some spiritual applications about these gates...

First of all the Sheep Gate spiritually can be applied as the gate of Jesus Christ.

The Fish Gate – Jesus said I will make you fishers of men.

The Old Gate – represents the sovereignty of God. He has decreed everything to come to pass.

The Valley Gate – humiliation. To come to God you must humble yourself as a little child.

The Refuse or Dung Gate – is the gate that symbolizes that you need cleaning.

The Fountain Gate – picture of the washing. Being cleansed, set apart.

The Water Gate – The Word of God cleanses us and keeps us clean.

The Horse Gate – symbolic of Jesus coming out of the clouds riding on the white horse

The East Gate – where Jesus will enter again.

The Inspection Gate – where God inspects us and either say “well done, my good and faithful servant or we will be ashamed.

PRINCIPLES OF LEADERSHIP – Chapter 3

1. A leader has the work organized and in order. A leader has everything planned and understood by those who are doing the work.
2. A good leader involves everybody possible. All the people in all responsibilities.
3. A leader is not bothered by delegation. When he delegates someone else to do something. You see some people don't want to delegate. Because they are afraid they will lose their power. 'how about letting Joe do this?' 'No, that's ok. I can do it.' Sometimes people don't delegate because they think nobody else can do it as good as they can. And sometimes people don't delegate because they are afraid they will lose the glory for themselves. Because if they do it all, they get patted on the back. But there is a problem with that. Because if 1 person does all the work, then only the work of 1 person gets done. But if 1 person delegates to 40 others, then the work of 40 people gets done. Which is so much greater.

Application

First Baptist Church will be God's instrument in this community. That we will do His Work, His Way, at this time. And in order for that to happen, each one of us must be involved in the ministry.

Question – are you on a committee, a ministry team? How are you helping serve in this body?

Also, we need to get all involved. Get as many involved as possible. Committee chairpersons – how many people are involved with your team? Because if you are doing it yourself, that is defeating the purpose. And finally, we need to be organized. What is our plan, goals, purpose, and vision as a church?