Nehemiah 3:16-32

DISTRICTS	RULER of CITY	TOWNS of PEOPLE
 Jerusalem (¹/₂ and ¹/₂) 		Jericho
Bethhaccherim	Mizpah	 Tekoites (2x)
Mizpah		Gibeon
 Beth-zur (½) 		Zanoah
 Keilah (½ and ½) 		 Mizpah (seat of the
		Governor of Trans-
		Euphrates)

3:16 – After him Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, ruler of half the district of Beth-zur, repaired to a point opposite the tombs of David, as far as the artificial pool, and as far as the house of the mighty men.

- 1. Beth Zur was a district capital 20 miles south of Jerusalem
- 2. Excavations in 1931 and 1957 indicated the site was resumed in the 400's BC at this time, but the population was low

3:17 – After him the Levites repaired: Rehum the son of Bani. Next to him Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah, repaired for his district.

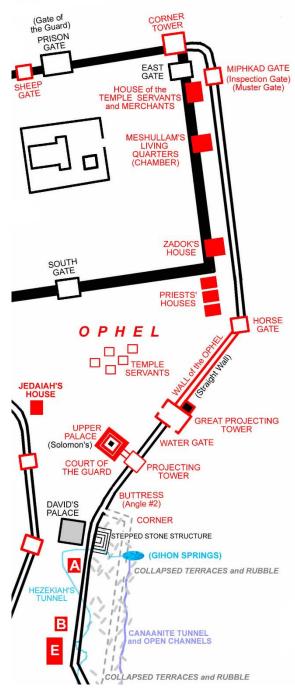
 Keilah was SW of Jerusalem and 8 miles NW of Hebron

3:18 – After him their brothers repaired: Bavvai the son of Henadad, ruler of half the district of Keilah.

3:19 – Next to him Ezer the son of Jeshua, ruler of Mizpah, repaired another section opposite the ascent to the armory at the buttress.

- 1. The "buttress" or "corner" was where the lower wall met the main upper wall.
- In 3:15 the DISTRICT of the territory of Mizpah is ruled by <u>Shallum</u>.
 But here Ezer is the ruler of the CITX of Mizpah.

But, here Ezer is the ruler of the CITY of Mizpah



3:20 – After him Baruch the son of Zabbai repaired another section from the buttress to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.

1. The house of the High Priest Eliashib was here.

3:21 – After him Meremoth the son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz repaired another section from the door of the house of Eliashib to the end of the house of Eliashib.

3:22 – After him the priests, the men of the surrounding area, repaired.

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3:23 – After them Benjamin and Hasshub repaired opposite their house. After them Azariah the son of Maaseiah, son of Ananiah repaired beside his own house.

3:24 – After him Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another section, from the house of Azariah to the buttress and to the corner.

3:25 – Palal the son of Uzai repaired opposite the buttress and the tower projecting from the upper house of the king at the court of the guard. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh

- 1. "Upper house of the king" is likely Solomon's royal palace.
- 2. The guard house would be near the palace.

3:26 – and the temple servants living on Ophel repaired to a point opposite the Water Gate on the east and the projecting tower.

1. "Ophel" means "swelling", "bulge", "rise", "mound". This was the area rising to the temple mount.

3:27 – After him the Tekoites repaired another section opposite the great projecting tower as far as the wall of Ophel.

1. The people of Tekoa did this second section. They previously were listed as working on a NW section in Nehemiah 3:5 without the help of their nobles, elites or leaders.

3:28 – Above the Horse Gate the priests repaired, each one opposite his own house.

1. The "Horse Gate

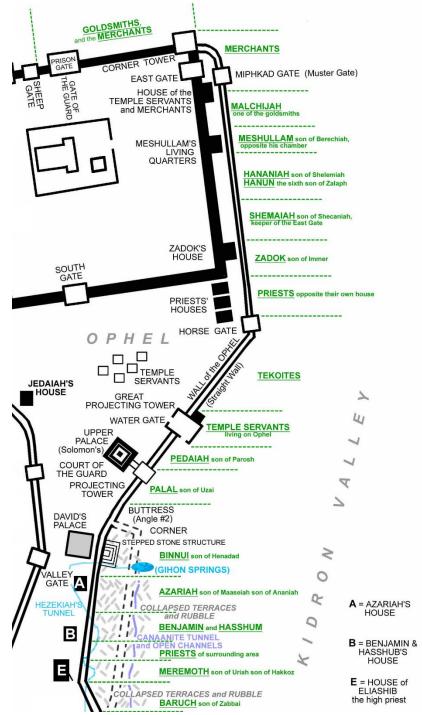
3:29 – After them Zadok the son of Immer repaired opposite his own house. After him Shemaiah the son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, repaired.

3:30 – After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph repaired another section. After him Meshullam the son of Berechiah repaired opposite his chamber.

 This "chamber" may not be a residence, but instead a chamber on the temple mount for service.

3:31 – After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired as far as the house of the temple servants and of the merchants, opposite the Muster Gate, and to the upper chamber of the corner.

- Some of the goldsmiths may have lived in this area between the walls. Makes sense that those who worked with gold would be near the temple that was decorated with gold and gold was part of the wardrobe of the priests.
- 2. The "house of the temple servants" may not have been a residence, but some chamber for the temple
 - servants while they served and fulfilled their duties.
- 3. The residences of the Temple Servants were on the Ophel.
- 4. House of the merchants may have been residences of local merchants or a lodging place (hotel) for traveling merchants while they were in town doing business.
 - a. Being near the temple in the ancient world for business purposes makes sense.
- 5. "Muster Gate" or "Inspection Gate" is from the word *mipqad* which means "numbering", "mustering" or "appointed place", or even "watch gate"



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$3:\!32-\!$ And between the upper chamber of the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and the merchants repaired.

1. Back to the Sheep Gate where the description started in verse 1