

**Come  
Together**

# Nehemiah

**Build to Bond**

# Recap

Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan, during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was serving the king his wine. **I had never before appeared sad in his presence. 2:1**

Then I was **terrified,**

Why wait **four** months before speaking to the king?

# Recap

## Lessons from Nehemiah (Thus Far)

Changing the world requires determination and **planning**

Never listen to our **enemies** advice

**Wisdom** is needed for the endeavours of God.

# Recap

Now may the God of peace—who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood—may he **equip** you with all you need for doing **his will**. May he produce in you through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. **All glory to him** forever and ever! Amen. **Hebrews 13:20-21**

# The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church

## Alan Hirsch

It was C. S. Lewis who observed that "there exists in every church something that sooner or later works against the very purpose for which it came into existence. So we must strive very hard, by the grace of God to keep the church focused on the mission that Christ originally gave to it.

The greatest proof of Christianity for others is not how far a man can logically analyze his reasons for believing, but how far in practice he will stake his life on his belief. T. S. Eliot

# The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church

## Alan Hirsch

many of our current practices seem to be the wrong way around ... **we seem to make church complex and discipleship too easy.**

**Purpose and principle**, clearly understood and articulated, and commonly shared, are the **genetic code** of any healthy organization. To the degree that you hold purpose and principles in common among you, you can dispense with command and control. People will know how to behave in accordance with them, **and they'll do it in thousands of unimaginable, creative ways.** The organization will become a vital, living set of beliefs.

If you want to build a ship, don't summon people to buy wood, prepare tools, distribute jobs, and organize the work, rather teach people the yearning for the **wide, boundless ocean.** **Antoine de Saint-Exupery**



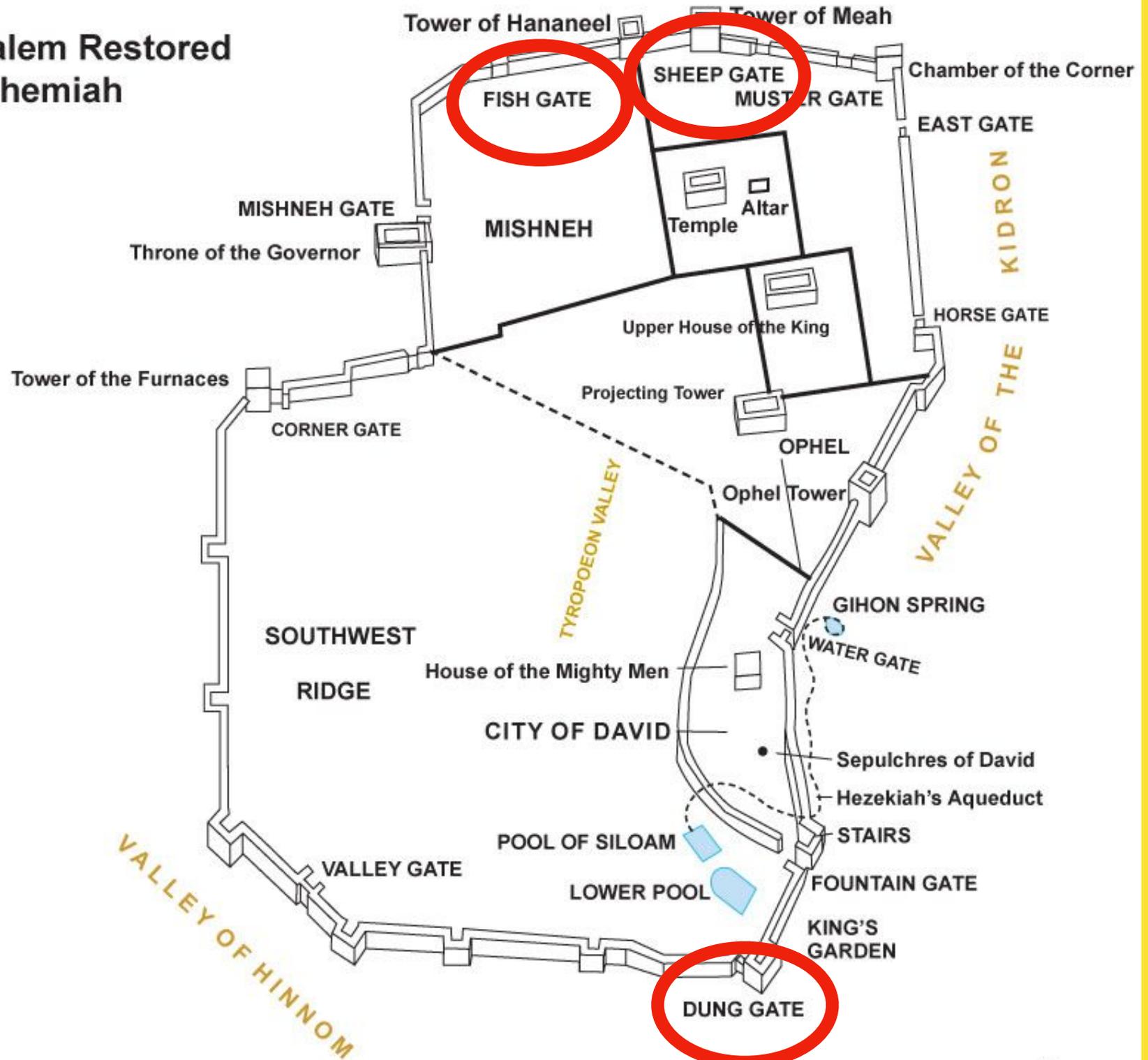
How do a **diverse** group of people  
**come together** for a **common goal**?

**The Sheep Gate.** This was the gate through which the animals were brought into the city, including the temple sacrifices.

**The Fish Gate.** Merchants used this gate when they brought fish from the Mediterranean Sea, and there may have been a fish market near the gate.

**The Dung Gate.** The Dung Gate was located at the southernmost tip of the city, near the Pool of Siloam. It was a main exit to the Valley of Hinnom, where the city disposed of its garbage.

# Jerusalem Restored by Nehemiah



The work itself involved **four elements**. They were to **remove** unnecessary materials, anything that was ruined beyond repair or hindered the work. The workers were to **rebuild** that which was salvageable. This meant they were to determine what was good or bad, remove excess, and build on what remained. They were to **repair** that which was found to be weak, places where the structure remained but pieces were falling off. Finally, they were to **strengthen**, fortify, what they found to be good. This only occurred in one place, near the broad wall. The work itself was physically demanding.

Then Eliashib the **high priest** and the other priests started to rebuild at the **Sheep Gate**. They dedicated it and set up its doors, building the wall as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and the Tower of Hananel. **People from the town of Jericho worked next to them,** and beyond them was Zaccur son of Imri. **3:1-2**

The Fish Gate was built by the **sons of Hassenaah**. They laid the beams, set up its doors, and installed its bolts and bars. Meremoth **son of Uriah** and grandson of Hakkoz repaired the next section of wall. Beside him were Meshullam son of Berekiah and **grandson of Meshezabel**, and then Zadok **son of Baana**. vs 3-4

The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their **nobles** would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors. **vs 5**

Next was Uzziel son of Harhaiah, a **goldsmith** by trade, who also worked on the wall. Beyond him was Hananiah, a manufacturer of **perfumes**. **vs 8**

Rephaiah son of Hur, **the leader of half the district of Jerusalem,** was next to them on the wall. Next Jedaiah son of Harumaph repaired the wall across from his own house, and next to him was Hattush son of Hashabneiah. Then came Makijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-moab, who repaired another section of the wall and the Tower of the Ovens. Shallum son of Hallohesh and **his daughters** repaired the next section. **He was the leader of the other half of the district of Jerusalem.** vs 9-12

Next to him, repairs were made by a group of **Levites** working under the supervision of Rehum son of Bani. **vs 17a**

Malkijah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the wall as far as the housing for the Temple servants and merchants, across from the Inspection Gate. Then he continued as far as the upper room at the corner. **The other goldsmiths and merchants** repaired the wall from that corner to the Sheep Gate. **vs 31-32**

How do a **diverse** group of people  
come **together** for a **common** goal?

By agreeing to a common mission



Reaching the lost  
Discipling the found

~~Ignoring the lost  
Entertaining the found~~

# Four Elements to Creating Common Mission

**Remove**-declutter your life

**Rebuild**-prioritize values

**Repair**-confront whatever drove you away

**Strengthen**-create new bonds of community

Some you must **uproot** and **tear down**, **destroy** and **overthrow**. Others you must **build up** and **plant**.  
**Jeremiah 1:10b**

“Christianity revitalized life in Greco-Roman cities by providing **new norms and new kinds of social relationships** able to cope with many urgent urban problems. To cities filled with the homeless and the impoverished, Christianity offered charity as well as hope. To cities filled with newcomers and strangers, Christianity offered an immediate basis for attachments. To cities filled with orphans and widows, Christianity provided a new and expanded sense of family. To cities torn by violent ethnic strife, Christianity offered a new basis for social solidarity. And to cities faced with epidemics, fires, and earthquakes, Christianity offered effective nursing services.” **Rodney Stark**

# mission is a **who**, not a **what**

**Come and see a man** who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah? **John 4:29**

One day some **parents brought their children to Jesus** so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. **Matthew 19:13**

Then **Andrew brought Simon** to meet Jesus. **John 1:42**

four men arrived **carrying a paralyzed man** on a mat. **Mark 2:3**

As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees **brought a woman** who had been caught in the act of adultery. **John 8:3**

As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, **“Look! There is the Lamb of God!”** When John’s two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus. **John 1:36-37**

If you want to build a ship, don't summon people to buy wood, prepare tools, distribute jobs, and organize the work, rather teach people the yearning for the **wide, boundless ocean.** **Antoine de Saint-Exupery**

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to **lead a life worthy of your calling**, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. **Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit**, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one **glorious hope for the future.** Ephesians 4:1-5