

Nehemiah 11:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Shabbethai and Jozabad, of the chief of the Levites, had the oversight of the outward business of the house of God.

Analysis

And Shabbethai and Jozabad, of the chief of the Levites, had the oversight of the outward business of the house of God.

This verse within Nehemiah 11 addresses themes of sacrifice, community building, strategic living. Repopulating Jerusalem required sacrifice—willingness to leave comfortable situations to strengthen the covenant community. This passage demonstrates biblical principles applicable across both testaments—God's sovereignty combined with human responsibility, faith expressed through obedient action, and the necessity of both individual and corporate commitment to covenant faithfulness. Nehemiah models leadership that combines vision, prayer, courage, integrity, and perseverance amid sustained opposition.

Historical Context

Nehemiah's account occurs during Persian imperial dominance (539-331 BC), specifically 445-433 BC under Artaxerxes I. Nehemiah's final reforms address recurring covenant violations, demonstrating the ongoing challenge of maintaining spiritual commitment across generations. The Persian period was crucial transitional time when Jewish identity shifted from monarchical nationalism to Torah-centered covenantal community. Without political independence, the people's cohesion depended on shared scripture, temple worship, and covenant obedience. This established patterns persisting through the Second Temple period

into New Testament times. Understanding this context illuminates Jesus's ministry among a people shaped by these reforms and challenges.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does regular engagement with Scripture transform understanding of God and His will for your life?
2. What specific commitments do you need to make (or renew) regarding Bible reading, worship, and obedience?
3. How can the principles demonstrated in this passage inform your response to current challenges in your life or church?

Interlinear Text

וְשַׁבָּתַי י	וְיֹזָבָד ד	עַל	הַמְּלָאכָה ה	הַקִּיצָנָה
And Shabbethai	and Jozabad	H5921	business	had the oversight of the outward
H7678	H3107		H4399	H2435
לְבַיִת	הָאֱלֹהִים י	מֶרֶאשׁ י	הַלְוִיִּם:	
of the house	of God	of the chief	of the Levites	
H1004	H430	H7218	H3881	

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