

# Nehemiah 12:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then I brought up the princes of Judah upon the wall, and appointed two great companies of them that gave thanks, whereof one went on the right hand upon the wall toward the dung gate:

## Analysis

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**Then I brought up the princes of Judah upon the wall, and appointed two great companies of them that gave thanks, whereof one went on the right hand upon the wall toward the dung gate:**

This verse within Nehemiah 12 addresses themes of worship, dedication, celebration, generational continuity. The wall dedication features joyful worship and thanksgiving, celebrating God's faithfulness in enabling the work's completion. Jerusalem's wall (chomah, חֹמָה) provided security, dignity, and testimony to God's faithfulness. City gates were strategic both defensively and administratively, controlling access and serving as centers of commerce and justice. 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

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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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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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

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וָאֶעֱלֵה      אֶת      שְׂרֵי י      מֵעַל      לְחוֹמַת הַ  
**Then I brought up**      H853      **the princes**      **of Judah**      H5921      **upon the wall**  
H5927      H8269      H3063      H2346

וָאֶעֱמַד יָדָה      שְׁתֵּי י      תּוֹדֹת      גָּדוֹל תּ  
**and appointed**      **two**      **companies of them that gave thanks**      **great**  
H5975      H8147      H8426      H1419

וּתְהַלֵּךְ תּ      לְיָמִין      מֵעַל      לְחוֹמַת הַ      לִשְׁעַר  
**whereof one went**      **on the right hand**      H5921      **upon the wall**      **gate**  
H8418      H3225      H2346      H8179

הָאֶשְׁפָּת:  
**toward the dung**  
H830

## Additional Cross-References

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**Nehemiah 2:13** (Parallel theme): And I went out by night by the gate of the valley, even before the dragon well, and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and the gates thereof were consumed with fire.

**Nehemiah 12:38** (Parallel theme): And the other company of them that gave thanks went over against them, and I after them, and the half of the people upon the wall, from beyond the tower of the furnaces even unto the broad wall;