

Nehemiah 13:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But in all this time was not I at Jerusalem: for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon came I unto the king, and after certain days obtained I leave of the king:

Analysis

But in all this time was not I at Jerusalem: for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon came I unto the king, and after certain days obtained I leave of the king:

This verse within Nehemiah 13 addresses themes of reform, confronting compromise, vigilance, finishing well. Nehemiah's return from Persia reveals backsliding, requiring renewed reforms in areas previously addressed—showing constant vigilance's necessity. 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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וּבְכָל	זֶה	לֹא	יָדַעְתִּי	בִּירוּשָׁלַם	כִּי
H3605	H2088	H3808	H1961	But in all this time was not I at Jerusalem	H3588
				H3389	
בְּשָׁנָה	שְׁלֹשִׁים	וּשְׁנָה	יָמֵי	לְאַרְתַּחְשָׁשׁ	הַמֶּלֶךְ:
year	and thirtieth	for in the two	of Artaxerxes	I unto the king	
H8141	H7970	H8147	H783	H4428	
בָּבֶל	בָּאֵתִי	אֶל	הַמֶּלֶךְ:	וְלִקְיָ	יָמֵי
of Babylon	came	H413	I unto the king	and after	certain days
H894	H935		H4428	H7093	H3117
					obtained I leave
					H7592
מִן	הַמֶּלֶךְ:				
H4480	I unto the king				
	H4428				

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 5:14 (Kingdom): Moreover from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even unto the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that is, twelve years, I and my brethren have not eaten the bread of the governor.