

Nehemiah 2:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: neither was there any beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon.

Analysis

And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: neither was there any beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon.

This verse within Nehemiah 2 addresses themes of providence, courage, planning, vision. The narrative shows God's providence in moving the king's heart while honoring Nehemiah's faithful preparation through months of prayer. 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. The post-exilic community had returned to Judah but remained politically subject to Persia, living under imperial administration while attempting to rebuild covenant identity. Archaeological evidence confirms Persian-period occupation of Jerusalem and the wall's route. 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 2:12 deepen your understanding of God's character and His work in human history?
2. What specific action or attitude change does this verse call you to make in your walk with God?
3. How can the principles demonstrated in this passage inform your response to current challenges in your life or church?

Interlinear Text

וְאָקַם	לַיְלָה	אֲנִי	וְאֶנְשׁ יִם	מֵעַט	עַמִּי	וְלֹא
And I arose	in the night	H589	H376	I and some	H5973	H3808
H6965	H3915			H4592		
הִגַּדְתִּי	לְאִישׁ	מִי	אֱלֹהֵי	נָתַן	אֶל	לִבִּי
with me neither told	I any man	H4100	what my God	had put	H413	in my heart
H5046	H120		H430	H5414		H3820
לַעֲשׂוֹת	בִּירוּשָׁלַם	הָיָה	אֵין	עַמִּי	כִּי	אִם
to do	at Jerusalem	neither was there any beast	H369	H5973	H3588	H518
H6213	H3389	H929				
הָיָה	אֲנִי	רָכַב	בְּהֵמָה			
neither was there any beast	H834	H589	that I rode upon	H0		
H929			H7392			

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 17:17 (References God): For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

Ezra 7:27 (References God): Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, which hath put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem:

Jeremiah 31:33 (References God): But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2 Corinthians 8:16 (References God): But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.