

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

וְלֹא עַמְּדָה יָאָק וּמְלָא
And I arose in the night H589 H376 I and some H5973 H3808

H6965 H3915 H4592
H589 H376 H5973 H3808

לֹבֶן אֶל נָתָת | אֶלְפִּי מֵה לֹאֵד מִתְּהִלָּתִי
with me neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart H4100 H430 H5414 H3820

H5046 H120 H430 H5414 H3820

אָמֵן כִּי עַמְּדָה יָאָק וּמְלָא
to do at Jerusalem neither was there any beast H929 H369 H5973 H3588 H518

H6213 H3389 H929

בְּהָנֶסֶת רָכֶב אָשֶׁר
neither was there any beast H834 H589 that I rode upon H7392 H0

H929

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.