

Nehemiah 2:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then I went on to the gate of the fountain, and to the king's pool: but there was no place for the beast that was under me to pass.

Analysis

Then I went on to the gate of the fountain, and to the king's pool: but there was no place for the beast that was under me to pass.

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. 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

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 2:14 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

לָעַבְרָא	אֶל	שַׁעַר	קַעֲוִין	וְאֶל	בְּרֶכֶת	הַמֶּלֶךְ
Then I went on	H413	to the gate	of the fountain	H413	pool	and to the king's
H5674		H8179	H5869		H1295	H4428
וְאֵין	מָקוֹם	לְבֵהֵמָה	לָעַבְרָא	תַּחְתָּי:		
H369	but there was no place	for the beast	Then I went on	H8478		
	H4725	H929	H5674			

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 3:15 (Kingdom): But the gate of the fountain repaired Shallun the son of Col-hozeh, the ruler of part of Mizpah; he built it, and covered it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof, and the wall of the pool of Siloah by the king's garden, and unto the stairs that go down from the city of David.

2 Kings 20:20 (Kingdom): And the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and all his might, and how he made a pool, and a conduit, and brought water into the city, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

2 Chronicles 32:30 (Parallel theme): This same Hezekiah also stopped the upper watercourse of Gihon, and brought it straight down to the west side of the city of David. And Hezekiah prospered in all his works.

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