

Nehemiah 2:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the rulers knew not whither I went, or what I did; neither had I as yet told it to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest that did the work.

Analysis

And the rulers knew not whither I went, or what I did; neither had I as yet told it to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest that did the work.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 2:16 deepen your understanding of God's character and His work in human history?
2. What specific contribution can you make to building up Christ's church in your local community?
3. How does understanding your work as part of God's larger purposes transform your approach to daily responsibilities?

Interlinear Text

וְלִסְגָּנִים יִם	ל א	אָ נָה יָדְעוּ	הֵל כְּתִי	וְמָה	אֲנִי
And the rulers	H3808	knew	not whither I went	H4100	H589
H5461		H3045	H1980		
וְלִסְגָּנִים יִם	וְלַחֲרֵי יִם	וְלַכֹּהֲנֵי יִם	וְלַהֲיֹדִים יִם	עָשִׂה	
And the rulers	nor to the nobles	nor to the priests	it to the Jews	or what I did	
H5461	H2715	H3548	H3064	H6213	
ל א	יָכֹן	עַד	הַמְלָאכָה	עָשִׂה	וְלִי תֵר
H3808		H5704	the work	or what I did	nor to the rest
	H3651		H4399	H6213	H3499
הַגִּדְתִּי:					
told					
H5046					