

Nehemiah 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.

Analysis

Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 2:9 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

אַתָּה	לִכְמָה	אִתְּתֵנָה	הַ	פִּנְגָּה	רַעַב	עַבְדָּוֹת	אֶל	זָאָב	וְאֶ
Then I came	H413	to the governors		beyond		the river		and gave	H0
	H935		H6346		H5676		H5104		H853
מִלְּ	שְׁרִי	בְּפִתְּחָה	בְּפִתְּחָה	עַמְּיִ	בְּפִתְּחָה	בְּפִתְּחָה	שְׁרִי	מִלְּ	
letters		Now the king	had sent	H5973	Now the king		captains	of the army	
H107		H4428	H7971		H4428		H8269	H2428	
: זְרַבְּשִׁים									
and horsemen									
H6571									

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 8:22 (Kingdom): For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.

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