

Nehemiah 3:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After him repaired Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, the ruler of the half part of Beth-zur, unto the place over against the sepulchres of David, and to the pool that was made, and unto the house of the mighty.

Analysis

After him repaired Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, the ruler of the half part of Beth-zur, unto the place over against the sepulchres of David, and to the pool that was made, and unto the house of the mighty.

This verse within Nehemiah 3 addresses themes of community, cooperation, diligence, stewardship. The detailed listing of builders demonstrates organized community effort where each person contributes according to ability and opportunity. 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 52-day wall completion represents remarkable achievement given opposition and limited resources. Excavations have confirmed portions of Nehemiah's wall and various gates mentioned in the text.

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 3:16 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

אַחֲרַי	הִתְקַזֵּק	נְחֵמְיָה	בֶּן	עֲזֻב וִק	שָׂר	חֲצִי
After	him repaired	Nehemiah	the son	of Azbuk	the ruler	of the half
H310	H2388	H5166	H1121	H5802	H8269	H2677
חֶלֶק	בֵּית	צוּר	עַד	נֶגֶד	קִבְרֵי	
part	H0	of Bethzur	H5704	H5048	unto the place over against the sepulchres	
H6418		H1049			H6913	
יְדוּיָד	וְעַד	הַבְּרִכָּה	הַעֲשֻׂנִיָּה	וְעַד	בֵּית	
of David	H5704	and to the pool	that was made	H5704	and unto the house	
H1732		H1295	H6213		H1004	
הַגִּבּוֹרִים:						
of the mighty						
H1368						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 2:29 (References David): Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

Nehemiah 3:9 (Parallel theme): And next unto them repaired Rephaiah the son of Hur, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 3:12 (Parallel theme): And next unto him repaired Shallum the son of Halohesh, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem, he and his daughters.

2 Kings 20:20 (Creation): 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?

Isaiah 7:3 (Parallel theme): Then said the LORD unto Isaiah, Go forth now to meet Ahaz, thou, and Shear-jashub thy son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller's field;

Isaiah 22:11 (Creation): Ye made also a ditch between the two walls for the water of the old pool: but ye have not looked unto the maker thereof, neither had respect unto him that fashioned it long ago.

Nehemiah 3:14 (Parallel theme): But the dung gate repaired Malchiah the son of Rechab, the ruler of part of Beth-haccerem; he built it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof.

Joshua 15:58 (Parallel theme): Halhul, Beth-zur, and Gedor,

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