

Nehemiah 3:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After him repaired the Levites, Rehum the son of Bani. Next unto him repaired Hashabiah, the ruler of the half part of Keilah, in his part.

Analysis

After him repaired the Levites, Rehum the son of Bani. Next unto him repaired Hashabiah, the ruler of the half part of Keilah, in his part.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 3:17 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	קִרְאָה יִקְ	הַלְוִיִּם	רְחֻם	בֶּן	בְּנֵי י	עַל
After	him repaired	the Levites	Rehum	the son	of Bani	H5921
H310	H2388	H3881	H7348	H1121	H1137	
יָדוֹ	קִרְאָה יִקְ	חֲשַׁבְיָה	שֶׁר	חֲצִי	לְפָלְקוֹ:	
Next unto him	him repaired	Hashabiah	the ruler	of the half	in his part	
H3027	H2388	H2811	H8269	H2677	H6418	
קַעֲיֵל הַ	לְפָלְקוֹ:					
of Keilah	in his part					
H7084	H6418					

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 15:44 (Parallel theme): And Keilah, and Achzib, and Mareshah; nine cities with their villages:

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