

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

עַל בְּנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אָמַר יְהוָה
After him repaired the Levites Rehum the son of Bani H5921
H310 H2388 H3881 H7348 H1121 H1137

לְפָלָקָן כְּעִיל הַשְׁבִּיבָן שְׁרָכָי כָּצִי לְפָלָקָן
Next unto him him repaired Hashabiah the ruler of the half in his part H6418
H3027 H2388 H2811 H8269 H2677

לְפָלָקָן כְּעִיל הַשְׁבִּיבָן
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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