

Nehemiah 3:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover the Nethinims dwelt in Ophel, unto the place over against the water gate toward the east, and the tower that lieth out.

Analysis

Moreover the Nethinims dwelt in Ophel, unto the place over against the water gate toward the east, and the tower that lieth out.

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. City gates were strategic both defensively and administratively, controlling access and serving as centers of commerce and justice. 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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 3:26 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

וְהַ נְתִינִים	וְהַ נְתִינִים	וְהַ נְתִינִים	וְהַ נְתִינִים	וְהַ נְתִינִים	וְהַ נְתִינִים	וְהַ נְתִינִים
Moreover the Nethinims	H1961	dwelt	in Ophel	H5704	H5048	gate
H5411		H3427	H6077			H8179
הַמָּקוֹם	הַמָּקוֹם	הַמָּקוֹם	הַמָּקוֹם	הַמָּקוֹם	הַמָּקוֹם	הַמָּקוֹם
unto the place over against the water	H4325	toward the east	H4217	and the tower	H4026	that lieth out
						H3318

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 8:1 (Parallel theme): And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto

Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel.

Nehemiah 11:21 (Parallel theme): But the Nethinims dwelt in Ophel: and Ziha and Gispa were over the Nethinims.

Nehemiah 8:3 (Parallel theme): And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.

Nehemiah 12:37 (Parallel theme): And at the fountain gate, which was over against them, they went up by the stairs of the city of David, at the going up of the wall, above the house of David, even unto the water gate eastward.

2 Chronicles 27:3 (Parallel theme): He built the high gate of the house of the LORD, and on the wall of Ophel he built much.

2 Chronicles 33:14 (Parallel theme): Now after this he built a wall without the city of David, on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, even to the entering in at the fish gate, and compassed about Ophel, and raised it up a very great height, and put captains of war in all the fenced cities of Judah.