

Nehemiah 3:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After him repaired Malchiah the goldsmith's son unto the place of the Nethinims, and of the merchants, over against the gate Miphkad, and to the going up of the corner.

Analysis

After him repaired Malchiah the goldsmith's son unto the place of the Nethinims, and of the merchants, over against the gate Miphkad, and to the going up of the corner.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 3:31 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	הִתְקַן יָקוֹם	מַלְכִּיָּה	בֶּן	הַצֹּרֶף י	עַד	בְּיָת
After	him repaired	Malchiah	son	the goldsmith's	H5704	unto the place
H310	H2388	H4441	H1121	H6885		H1004
הַנְּתִינִים	וְהַרְכָּלִים	בֶּן גֹּד	שָׁ עַר	הַמִּפְקָד		
of the Nethinims	and of the merchants	H5048	over against the gate	Miphkad		
H5411	H7402		H8179	H4663		
וְעַד	עָלִית	הַפִּנָּה:				
H5704	and to the going up	of the corner				
	H5944	H6438				

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 3:8 (Parallel theme): Next unto him repaired Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, of the goldsmiths. Next unto him also repaired Hananiah the son of one of the apothecaries, and they fortified Jerusalem unto the broad wall.

Nehemiah 3:32 (Parallel theme): And between the going up of the corner unto the sheep gate repaired the goldsmiths and the merchants.

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