

Nehemiah 3:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And next unto them the Tekoites repaired; but their nobles put not their necks to the work of their Lord.

Analysis

And next unto them the Tekoites repaired; but their nobles put not their necks to the work of their Lord.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 3:5 deepen your understanding of God's character and His work in human history?
2. What specific contribution can you make to building up Christ's church in your local community?
3. How does understanding your work as part of God's larger purposes transform your approach to daily responsibilities?

Interlinear Text

וְעַל H5921	וְיָם H3027	וְהָיָה יָקוֹ H2388	וְהָיָה יָקוֹ H8621	וְאֲדִירָהֶם H117	לֹא H3808
	And next unto them	repaired	the Tekoites	but their nobles	
וְהָיָה יָקוֹ H935	וְיָם H6677	וְהָיָה יָקוֹ H5656	וְהָיָה יָקוֹ H113		
put	not their necks	to the work	of their Lord		

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 3:27 (Parallel theme): After them the Tekoites repaired another piece, over against the great tower that lieth out, even unto the wall of Ophel.

2 Samuel 14:2 (Parallel theme): And Joab sent to Tekoah, and fetched thence a wise woman, and said unto her, I pray thee, feign thyself to be a mourner, and put on now mourning apparel, and anoint not thyself with oil, but be as a woman that had a long time mourned for the dead:

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