

Nehemiah 3:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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. Jerusalem's wall (chomah, חומָה) provided security, dignity, and testimony to God's faithfulness. 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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 3:8 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

מִרְחַיָּה בֶּן עֲזִיאֵל בֶּן הַמִּזְבֵּחַ יְהוָה עַל יָד וְיָד
H5921 Next unto him also repaired Uzziel the son of Harhaiah
H3027 H2388 H5816 H1121 H2736

בֶּן סָנָנִי הַמִּזְבֵּחַ יְהוָה עַל יָד וְיָד אֶזְרָף יְמִם
of the goldsmiths H5921 Next unto him also repaired Hananiah the son
H6884 H3027 H2388 H2608 H1121

בָּחוֹם הַעַד יְרֵשָׁה מִצְבָּה וְכָלְקָמִים
of one of the apothecaries and they fortified Jerusalem H5704 wall
H7546 H5800 H3389 H2346

בָּרוּכְךָ
unto the broad
H7342

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 12:38 (Parallel theme): And the other company of them that gave thanks went over against them, and I after them, and the half of the people upon the wall, from beyond the tower of the furnaces even unto the broad wall;

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org