

Nehemiah 3:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And next unto them repaired Rephaiah the son of Hur, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem.

Analysis

And next unto them repaired Rephaiah the son of Hur, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 3:9 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

וְעַל	יָדָם	תְּחַזֵּק	רֵפָאִיָּה	בֶּן	חֹר	שֹׁר
H5921	And next unto them	repaired	Rephaiah	the son	of Hur	the ruler
	H3027	H2388	H7509	H1121	H2354	H8269
חֶצֶי	פֶּלֶא	יְרוּשָׁלַם:				
of the half	part	of Jerusalem				
H2677	H6418	H3389				

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 3:12 (References Jerusalem): And next unto him repaired Shallum the son of Halohesh, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem, he and his daughters.

Nehemiah 3:17 (Parallel theme): 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.

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