

Nehemiah 4:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt by them came, they said unto us ten times, From all places whence ye shall return unto us they will be upon you.

Analysis

And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt by them came, they said unto us ten times, From all places whence ye shall return unto us they will be upon you.

This verse within Nehemiah 4 addresses themes of opposition, perseverance, prayer and work, spiritual warfare. Opposition intensifies as the work progresses, requiring both spiritual response (prayer) and practical measures (armed defense). 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 4:12 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

וַיְהִי	כַּאֲשֶׁר	בָּּאוּ	הַיְּהוּדִים		הַיֹּשֵׁבִים	
H1961	H834	came	And it came to pass that when the Jews		which dwelt	
		H935	H3064		H3427	
אֲצֵלָם	וַיֹּאמְרוּ	לָנוּ	עָשָׂר	פְּעָמִים	מִכָּל	הַמְּקוֹמֹת
by them	they said	H0	unto us ten	times	H3605	From all places
H681	H559		H6235	H6471		H4725
אֲשֶׁר	תָּשׁוּ וּבֹ		עָלֵינוּ:			
H834	whence ye shall return		H5921			
	H7725					