

Nehemiah 4:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

Analysis

And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 4:14 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

וַאֲנִי	וַאֲקֹמָה	וַאֲמַר	אֶל	הַחֹרִים	וְאֶל	הַסֹּגְנִים
And I looked	and rose up	and said	H413	unto the nobles	H413	and to the rulers
H7200	H6965	H559		H2715		H5461
וְאֶל	יְתָר	הָעָם	אֶל	וְהַנּוֹכָא	מִפְּנֵיהֶם	אֶת
H413	and to the rest	of the people	H408	Be not ye afraid	of them	H853
	H3499	H5971		H3372	H6440	
אֲדֹנָי	הַגָּדוֹל	וְהַנּוֹכָא	זָכְרוּ	וְהִלָּחֶמְוּ	עַל	
the Lord	which is great	Be not ye afraid	remember	and fight	H5921	
H136	H1419	H3372	H2142	H3898		
אֲחֵיכֶם	בְּנֵיכֶם	וּבָנוֹתֵיכֶם	נָשִׁיכֶם	וּבֵיתֵיכֶם:		
for your brethren	your sons	and your daughters	your wives	and your houses		
H251	H1121	H1323	H802	H1004		

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 10:12 (References Lord): Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the LORD do that which seemeth him good.

Numbers 14:9 (References Lord): Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.

Hebrews 13:6 (References Lord): So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Psalms 20:7 (References Lord): Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

Psalms 66:3 (Parallel theme): Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.

Psalms 65:5 (Parallel theme): By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea:

Matthew 10:28 (Parallel theme): And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Nehemiah 1:5 (References Lord): And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:

Deuteronomy 10:17 (References Lord): For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:

Deuteronomy 1:21 (References Lord): Behold, the LORD thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged.