

Nehemiah 4:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

Analysis

And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

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). Jerusalem's wall (chomah, חֹמָה) 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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 4:19 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

וְאָמַרְתִּי	אֶל	הַחֹרִים	וְאֶל	הַסִּגְנִים	וְאֶל	יְהוֹרָם
And I said	H413	unto the nobles	H413	and to the rulers	H413	and to the rest
H559		H2715		H5461		H3499
הָעָם	הַמְּלָאכָה	הַגְּדֹלָה	וְהַרְבֵּה	וְהַחֲסִידִים	וְנִפְרָדִים	
of the people	The work	is great	and large	H587	and we are separated	
H5971	H4399	H7235	H7342		H6504	
עַל	הַחוֹמָה	רְחוֹק	אֶחָד	מֵאֲחֵר:		
H5921	upon the wall	far from	one	another		
	H2346	H7350	H376	H251		

