

Nehemiah 4:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet,
resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.

Analysis

In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 4:20 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

בְּמָקוֹם	אֲשֶׁר	תִּשְׁמְעוּ	אֶת	קוֹל	הַשּׁוֹפָר	שֶׁמָּה
In what place	H834	therefore ye hear	H853	the sound	of the trumpet	H8033
H4725		H8085		H6963	H7782	
וּתִקְבֹּץ	אֵל יְנוֹ	אֶלֶּה יְנוֹ	יְלִחֶם	לָנוּ:		
resort	H413	ye thither unto us our God	shall fight	H0		
H6908		H430	H3898			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 14:14 (Parallel theme): The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

Deuteronomy 20:4 (References God): For the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.

Deuteronomy 1:30 (References God): The LORD your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes;

Deuteronomy 3:22 (References God): Ye shall not fear them: for the LORD your God he shall fight for you.

Joshua 23:10 (References God): One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you.

Exodus 14:25 (Parallel theme): And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

Zechariah 14:3 (Parallel theme): Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.