

Nehemiah 4:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour on the day.

Analysis

Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour on the day.

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 4:22 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

גַּם	בְּעֵת	אָמַר רְתִי	הָיָא	לְעָם	
H1571	Likewise at the same time	H1931	said	I unto the people	
	H6256		H559	H5971	
אֶשׁ	וְנָעַר וְ	בֵּית וְ	יְרוּשָׁלַם	וְהָיוּ	לְנוֹ
Let every one	with his servant	lodge	within	Jerusalem	
H376	H5288	H3885	H8432	H3389	H1961 H0
הַלַּיְלָה	מִשְׁמֶרֶת	וְהָיוּ	מְלָאכָה:		
that in the night	they may be a guard	on the day	to us and labour		
H3915	H4929	H3117	H4399		