

Nehemiah 4:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for washing.

Analysis

So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for washing.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 4:23 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

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| וְאִנִּי H369 | וְאִנִּי H589 | וְאִנִּי H251 | וְאִנִּי H5288 | וְאִנִּי H582 | | |
| | | So neither I nor my brethren | nor my servants | nor the men | | |
| הַמִּשְׁמָר H4929 | אֲשֶׁר H834 | אֲחֵרִי H310 | אֵין H369 | אֵין חֵנוּ H587 | כָּשָׁט יָם H6584 | בְּגָדֵינוּ H899 |
| of the guard | | which followed | me none of us | put off | our clothes | |
| אֵין יֵשׁ H376 | שָׁלַח וְ H7973 | הַמַּיִם: H4325 | | | | |
| saving that every one | put them off | for washing | | | | |