

Nehemiah 4:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

Analysis

So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

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). The construction work (banah, בָּנָה) symbolizes restoring what sin and judgment destroyed. 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 4:6 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

So built	H1129	אֶת	אֶת	תְּבִנָה	רַחֲוֹת	הַ	וְתַקְשֵׁר	רַחֲוֹת	כָל	הַ	רַחֲוֹת	הַ	עַד	
	H853	and	all	the	wall		was	joined	together	H3605	and	all	the	wall
	H2346									H2346				H5704

unto the half	H2677	וְ	לְ	בָּ	לְ	עַ	מְ	לְ	עַ	שׂ	וְ	לְ	עַ	
	H1961													

had a mind	H3820	וְ	يָمַد	וְ	צָדֵ	וְ	לְ	עַ	שׂ	וְ	لְ	עַ	שׂ	
	H5971													

thereof for the people	H6213	וְ	لְ	עַ	שׂ	וְ	לְ	עַ	שׂ	וְ	לְ	עַ	שׂ	
	H5971													

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 2:13 (Parallel theme): For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Hebrews 13:21 (Parallel theme): Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Chronicles 29:3 (Parallel theme): Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house,

1 Chronicles 29:14 (Parallel theme): But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

Nehemiah 6:15 (Parallel theme): So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.

Psalms 110:3 (Parallel theme): Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.

2 Chronicles 29:36 (Parallel theme): And Hezekiah rejoiced, and all the people, that God had prepared the people: for the thing was done suddenly.