

Nehemiah 4:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth,

Analysis

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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, חומָה) 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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 4:7 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

שָׁמַע עַכְשָׁוִיל רַיִם	שָׁמַע עַכְשָׁוִיל רַיִם	שָׁמַע עַכְשָׁוִיל רַיִם	שָׁמַע עַכְשָׁוִיל רַיִם	שָׁמַע עַכְשָׁוִיל רַיִם	שָׁמַע עַכְשָׁוִיל רַיִם
H1961	H834	heard	But it came to pass that when Sanballat	Sanballat	and Tobiah
		H8085		H5571	H2900
וּבְעָרָבִים	וּבְעָרָבִים	וּבְעָרָבִים	וּבְעָרָבִים	וּבְעָרָבִים	וּבְעָרָבִים
and the Arabians	and the Arabians	and the Arabians	and the Arabians	and the Arabians	and the Arabians
H6163		H5984		H796	H5927
אַרְוֹכָה	אַרְוֹכָה	אַרְוֹכָה	אַרְוֹכָה	אַרְוֹכָה	אַרְוֹכָה
were made up	were made up	were made up	were made up	were made up	were made up
H724		H2346		H3389	H3588
לְחִמָּה וְתִרְשָׁלָם	לְחִמָּה וְתִרְשָׁלָם	לְחִמָּה וְתִרְשָׁלָם	לְחִמָּה וְתִרְשָׁלָם	לְחִמָּה וְתִרְשָׁלָם	לְחִמָּה וְתִרְשָׁלָם
that the walls	that the walls	that the walls	that the walls	that the walls	that the walls
H3588		H3588		H3588	H3588
בְּפִרְאָז יָמִם	בְּפִרְאָז יָמִם	בְּפִרְאָז יָמִם	בְּפִרְאָז יָמִם	בְּפִרְאָז יָמִם	בְּפִרְאָז יָמִם
and that the breaches	and that the breaches	and that the breaches			
H6555		H6555		H6555	H6555
לְהַסְתֵּן וְיִרְאֶה	לְהַסְתֵּן וְיִרְאֶה	לְהַסְתֵּן וְיִרְאֶה	לְהַסְתֵּן וְיִרְאֶה	לְהַסְתֵּן וְיִרְאֶה	לְהַסְתֵּן וְיִרְאֶה
to be stopped	to be stopped	wroth	wroth	then they were very	then they were very
H5640		H2734		H3966	H3966

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 2:10 (Parallel theme): When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

Nehemiah 4:1 (Parallel theme): But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews.

Revelation 12:17 (Parallel theme): And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Acts 5:33 (Parallel theme): When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

Jeremiah 25:20 (Parallel theme): And all the mingled people, and all the kings of the land of Uz, and all the kings of the land of the Philistines, and Ashkelon, and Azzah, and Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod,

Amos 1:13 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of the children of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have ripped up the women with child of Gilead, that they might enlarge their border:

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