

Nehemiah 5:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Restore, I pray you, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their oliveyards, and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money, and of the corn, the wine, and the oil, that ye exact of them.

Analysis

Restore, I pray you, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their oliveyards, and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money, and of the corn, the wine, and the oil, that ye exact of them.

This verse within Nehemiah 5 addresses themes of justice, integrity, selfless leadership, economic reform. Internal crisis threatens to destroy what external opposition could not—economic exploitation requiring bold reforming leadership. The Hebrew palal (פָּלַל) for prayer indicates intercession and petition, emphasizing dependence on God. 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does this passage teach about prayer's role in discerning and accomplishing God's will?
2. How can you develop more sustained, biblically-grounded prayer practices in your daily routine?
3. How can the principles demonstrated in this passage inform your response to current challenges in your life or church?

Interlinear Text

הַשִּׁיבוּ	נָא	לָהֶם	כְּהִיּוֹם	שְׂדֵתֵיהֶם	כַּרְמֵיהֶם
Restore	H4994	H0	I pray you to them even this day	their lands	their vineyards
H7725			H3117	H7704	H3754
זֵיתֵיהֶם	וּבְתֵיהֶם	וּמֵאֵת	הַכֶּסֶף		
their oliveyards	and their houses	also the hundredth	part of the money		
H2132	H1004	H3967	H3701		
וְהַדָּגַן	הַתִּירוֹשׁ	וְהַצֶּהָר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲתֶם	נָשִׁים
and of the corn	the wine	and the oil	H834	H859	that ye exact
H1715	H8492	H3323			H0
					H5383

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 58:6 (Parallel theme): Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?
