

Nehemiah 5:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also I shook my lap, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labour, that performeth not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied. And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the LORD. And the people did according to this promise.

Analysis

Also I shook my lap, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labour, that performeth not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied. And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the LORD. And the people did according to this promise.

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. 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 5:13 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	חֲצֹנִי	נָע וֹר	כִּי וַיֹּאמֶר ו	נָע וֹר	הָאֱלֹהִים	אֶת
H1571	my lap H2684	Also I shook H5287	and said H559	H3602 Also I shook H5287	So God H430	H853
כָּל	הָאִישׁ	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא	יִקְוּ יָם	אֶת	בְּדָבָר
H3605	every man H376	H834	H3808	that performeth H6965	H853	according to this promise H1697
הָזֶה	מִבֵּיתוֹ	וּמִיָּגִיעוֹ	וְכִי	יְהִי הָ	נָע וֹר	
H2088	from his house H1004	and from his labour H3018	H3602	H1961	Also I shook H5287	
וְרִקַּן	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	כָּל	הַקֶּהָל	אָמֵן	וַיְהַלְלוּ	אֶת
and emptied H7386	and said H559	H3605	And all the congregation H6951	Amen H543	and praised H1984	H853
יְהוָה	וַיַּעַשׂ	הָעָם	בְּדָבָר	הַזֶּה:		
the LORD H3068	did H6213	And the people H5971	according to this promise H1697	H2088		

Additional Cross-References

Acts 18:6 (Parallel theme): And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

1 Chronicles 16:36 (Resurrection): Blessed be the LORD God of Israel for ever and ever. And all the people said, Amen, and praised the LORD.

Matthew 10:14 (Parallel theme): And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.