

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

את פָּאֵלָה יְם נָע וָרַחֲצָת יְגָם
H1571 my lap Also I shook and said H3602 Also I shook So God H853
H2684 H5287 H559 H3602 H5287 H430

כֹּל לֹא אֲשֶׁר רְבָאֵישׁ אֶת יְקָרִים
H3605 every man H834 H3808 that performeth H853 according to this promise H1697
H376 H6965

בְּזַה מְבִיטָה וְמִגְעָז נָע וָרַחֲצָת
H2088 from his house and from his labour H3602 H1961 Also I shook H5287
H1004 H3018 H3602 H1961 H5287

אֶת תִּפְלַלְלָה אָמֵן כָּל יְאָמָר וְאֵל כָּל
and emptied and said H3605 And all the congregation H6951 Amen H543 and praised H853
H7386 H559 H3605 H6951 H543 H1984

בְּזַה אֶת עַמּוֹת כֹּל רְבָאֵישׁ וְיְהִי הָרָחֵב
the LORD did And the people according to this promise H2088
H3068 H6213 H5971 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.