

Nehemiah 5:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even unto the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that is, twelve years, I and my brethren have not eaten the bread of the governor.

Analysis

Moreover from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even unto the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that is, twelve years, I and my brethren have not eaten the bread of the governor.

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 5:14 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

וְגַם	מִזְמָן	אַשְׁר	צִוָּה	לְקַיֵּם	וְתַאֲתִים
H1571	Moreover from the time	H834	that I was appointed	H853	H1961
	H3117		H6680		
בָּאָרֶץ	בָּאָרֶץ	יְהוּדָה	שָׁנָה יָמִם	שָׁנָה יָמִם	וְעַד
בָּאָרֶץ	בָּאָרֶץ	יְהוּדָה	שָׁנָה יָמִם	שָׁנָה יָמִם	וְעַד
of the governor	in the land	of Judah	year	from the twentieth	H5704
H6346	H776	H3063	H8141	H6242	
שָׁנָה יָמִם	שָׁנָה יָמִם	שָׁנָה יָמִם	שָׁנָה יָמִם	שָׁנָה יָמִם	שָׁנָה יָמִם
year	and thirtieth	even unto the two	of Artaxerxes	the king	year
H8141	H7970	H8147	H783	H4428	H8141
שָׁנָה יָמִם	שָׁנָה יָמִם	שָׁנָה יָמִם	שָׁנָה יָמִם	שָׁנָה יָמִם	שָׁנָה יָמִם
even unto the two		I and my brethren	the bread	of the governor	
H8147	H6240	H589	H251	H3899	H6346
וְאַתָּה	עֲשֵׂה	אָנֹכִי	וְאַתָּה	לְחֵם	בָּאָרֶץ
לְאַתָּה	אַתָּה	וְאַתָּה	וְאַתָּה	לְאַתָּה	וְאַתָּה
H3808	have not eaten	H398			

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 13:6 (Kingdom): But in all this time was not I at Jerusalem: for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon came I unto the king, and after certain days obtained I leave of the king:

Nehemiah 2:1 (Kingdom): And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence.