

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

גַּם מִיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר צִוֵּה לְהִיּוֹת אִתִּי
H1571 Moreover from the time H834 that I was appointed H853 H1961
H3117 H6680

וְעַד עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנִים יְהוּדָה בְּאֶרֶץ הַפַּּחַד
of the governor in the land of Judah year from the twentieth H5704
H6346 H776 H3063 H8141 H6242

שָׁנִים הֵם לְלֶאֱרִיחְשׁ סֵתָא שְׁתֵּי שָׁנִים שְׁלֹשׁ שָׁנִים
year and thirtieth even unto the two of Artaxerxes the king year
H8141 H7970 H8147 H783 H4428 H8141

הֵפֶּחָה לֶחֶם וְאֲנִי עָשִׂה שְׁתֵּי שָׁנִים
even unto the two H6240 H589 I and my brethren the bread of the governor
H8147 H251 H3899 H6346

אֲכָלְתִּי: לֹא
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.