

Nehemiah 5:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words.

Analysis

And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words.

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 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 5:6 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

אָתָּה יִשְׁאַל מִן־מֵאָדָר כִּאֵשׁ רַעַת שְׁמַעְתִּי אֶת שְׁמַעְתִּי אֶת שְׁמַעְתִּי מִן־מֵאָדָר
angry H0 And I was very H834 when I heard H853 their cry H853
H2734 H3966 H8085 H2201

בְּאַלְמָנָה כְּדָבָר יִמְלֹא
and these words H428
H1697

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 13:25 (Parallel theme): And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves.

Ephesians 4:26 (Parallel theme): Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Exodus 11:8 (Parallel theme): And all these thy servants shall come down unto me, and bow down themselves unto me, saying, Get thee out, and all the people that follow thee: and after that I will go out. And he went out from Pharaoh in a great anger.

Numbers 16:15 (Parallel theme): And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the LORD, Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them.

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