

Nehemiah 5:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said unto them, Ye exact usury, every one of his brother. And I set a great assembly against them.

Analysis

Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said unto them, Ye exact usury, every one of his brother. And I set a great assembly against them.

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 5:7 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

וְאֵת בְּחֹרֶם אָתָּה תְּאַר יְבָה שָׁלֵּן תְּפַלֵּן
Then I consulted with myself and I rebuked the nobles
H4427 H3820 H5921 H853 H2715 H853

אֶת מִשְׁאָמָר לְבָם תְּאַמְּרָה הַפְּסִינָה יְמִם
and the rulers and said usury every one of his brother
H5461 H559 H0 H4855 H376 H251 H859

גִּדְזֹלָה: קָהָל הַעֲלִיק מִאֵת | נְשָׁאִים
And I set assembly a great
H5383 H5414 H5921 H6952 H1419

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 25:36 (Parallel theme): Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee.

Exodus 22:25 (Parallel theme): If thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury.

Psalms 15:5 (Parallel theme): He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

Ezekiel 22:12 (Parallel theme): In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD.

Leviticus 19:15 (Parallel theme): Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.