

# 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

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**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

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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**

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**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**

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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

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וַיִּשְׁלַח	לִבִּי	עָלַי	וְאָנֹכִי	אֶת	הַחֹרִים	אֶת
Then I consulted	with myself	H5921	and I rebuked	H853	the nobles	H853
H4427	H3820		H7378		H2715	
וְהַסֹּגְנִים	וְאָמַרְהוּ	לָהֶם	מִשָּׁא	אִישׁ	בְּאָחִיו	אֶת
and the rulers	and said	H0	usury	every one	of his brother	H859
H5461	H559		H4855	H376	H251	
נָשׂוּ אִים	וְאָתָּה	עָלֶיָּהֶם	קָהָל	גְּדוֹלָה:		
H5383	And I set	H5921	assembly	a great		
	H5414		H6952	H1419		

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.