

Nehemiah 6:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who was shut up; and he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee.

Analysis

Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who was shut up; and he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee.

This verse within Nehemiah 6 addresses themes of deception, completing the work, steadfastness, discernment. Enemies shift tactics from open opposition to subtle deception, requiring spiritual discernment to complete the wall in 52 days. 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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 6:10 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

וְאַנִי בָּא יָם בֵּית שְׁמַעְיָה בֶּן דִּלְיָה בֶּן
H589 Afterward I came in the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son
H935 H1004 H8098 H1121 H1806 H1121

ל וְהָיָה עָצוּר וַיֹּאמֶר נִפְעַד אֶל
of Mehetabeel H1931 who was shut up and he said Let us meet together H413
H4105 H6113 H559 H3259

בֵּית הָאֱלֹהִים אֶל תּוֹךְ הַהֵיכָל וְנִסְגְּרָה דִּלְתוֹת
in the house of God H413 within of the temple and let us shut the doors
H1004 H430 H8432 H1964 H5462 H1817

הַהֵיכָל כִּי בָּא יָם לְהַרְגֹּהֶם וְלַיְלָה
of the temple H3588 Afterward I came to slay thee yea in the night
H1964 H935 H2026 H3915

בָּא יָם לְהַרְגֹּהֶם
Afterward I came to slay
H935 H2026

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 36:5 (Parallel theme): And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, I am shut up; I cannot go into the house of the LORD:
