

Nehemiah 6:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.

Analysis

So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.

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. Jerusalem's wall (chomah, חֹמָה) provided security, dignity, and testimony to God's faithfulness. 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 6:15 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

וְתִשָּׁלֵם	הַחֹמֶה הַ	בְּעֶשְׂרֵי יָמִים	וְחֲמֵשָׁה הַ	לְאֵל ל וִל
was finished	So the wall	in the twenty	and fifth	day of the month Elul
H7999	H2346	H6242	H2568	H435
יָמִים:	וּשְׁנַיִם יָמִים	לְחֲמֵשָׁה יָמִים		
in fifty	and two	days		
H2572	H8147	H3117		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 1:3 (Parallel theme): And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Daniel 9:25 (Parallel theme): Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

Ezra 6:15 (Parallel theme): And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

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