

Nehemiah 6:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For there were many in Judah sworn unto him, because he was the son in law of Shechaniah the son of Arah; and his son Johanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah.

Analysis

For there were many in Judah sworn unto him, because he was the son in law of Shechaniah the son of Arah; and his son Johanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah.

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 6:18 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

כִּי	רַב־יִם	בִּיהוּדָה	בְּעֵלִי	שְׁבוּעָה	לֹא	כִּי
H3588	For there were many	in Judah	sworn	H7621	H0	H3588
	H7227	H3063	H1167			
	חֲתָן	הָיָה	לְשֹׁכְנֵי	בֶן	אָרָח	
	unto him because he was the son in law	H1931	of Shechaniah	and his son	of Arah	
	H2860		H7935	H1121	H733	
יְהוֹנָתָן	בֶּן	לָקַח	אֶת	בִּתּוֹ	מִשָּׁלָם	בֶּן
Johanan	and his son	had taken	H853	the daughter	of Meshullam	and his son
H3076	H1121	H3947		H1323	H4918	H1121
	בְּרַחְיָהּ					
	of Berechiah					
	H1296					

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 2:5 (Parallel theme): The children of Arah, seven hundred seventy and five.

Nehemiah 7:10 (Parallel theme): The children of Arah, six hundred fifty and two.

Nehemiah 3:30 (Parallel theme): After him repaired Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph, another piece. After him repaired Meshullam the son of Berechiah over against his chamber.

Nehemiah 3:4 (Parallel theme): And next unto them repaired Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz. And next unto them repaired Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabeel. And next unto them repaired Zadok the son of Baana.