

Nehemiah 7:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.

Analysis

That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.

This verse within Nehemiah 7 addresses themes of organization, genealogy, remembrance, continuity. With physical security established, Nehemiah organizes administration and records genealogies, showing continuity with God's promises. 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 spiritual reforms under Ezra and Nehemiah shaped Judaism for centuries, establishing Scripture's centrality and patterns of worship continuing into the intertestamental period and beyond. 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 7:2 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

וְאֶצְוֶה	אֶת	חֲנַנִּי	אֲחִי	וְאֶת	חֲנַנְיָהּ	שָׂר
charge	H853	Hanani	That I gave my brother	H853	and Hananiah	the ruler
H6680		H2607	H251		H2608	H8269
הַבֵּיִת	עַל	יְרוּשָׁלַם	כִּי	הוּא	כָּאִישׁ	אֱמֵת
of the palace	H5921	over Jerusalem	H3588	H1931	man	for he was a faithful
H1002		H3389			H376	H571
וַיִּירָא	אֶת	הָאֱלֹהִים	מִרְבִּימָם			
and feared	H853	God	above many			
H3372		H430	H7227			

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 1:2 (References Jerusalem): That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

Psalms 101:6 (Faith): Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

Matthew 25:21 (Faith): His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Nehemiah 10:23 (Parallel theme): Hoshea, Hananiah, Hashub,

Nehemiah 2:8 (References God): And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.

1 Kings 18:3 (Parallel theme): And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly: