

Nehemiah 7:70

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And some of the chief of the fathers gave unto the work. The Tirshatha gave to the treasure a thousand drams of gold, fifty basons, five hundred and thirty priests' garments.

Analysis

And some of the chief of the fathers gave unto the work. The Tirshatha gave to the treasure a thousand drams of gold, fifty basons, five hundred and thirty priests' garments.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 7:70 deepen your understanding of God's character and His work in human history?
2. What specific contribution can you make to building up Christ's church in your local community?
3. How does understanding your work as part of God's larger purposes transform your approach to daily responsibilities?

Interlinear Text

וּמִקֶּצֶת	רֹאשׁ י	הָאֲבֹת וְ	נָתַן	לְמַלְאכָה	הַתִּירְשָׁתָא	נָתַן
And some of	the chief	of the fathers	gave	unto the work	The Tirshatha	gave
H7117	H7218	H1	H5414	H4399	H8660	H5414

לְאֹצֵר	זָהָב	דְּרַכְמַן יִם	אֶלְף	מִזְבְּקֵי וְ	חֲמִשָּׁן יִם
to the treasure	of gold	drams	a thousand	basons	fifty
H214	H2091	H1871	H505	H4219	H2572

כְּתָנֹת	כֹּהֲנֵי יִם	שְׁלֹשִׁים יִם	חֲמִישָׁה	מֵאוֹת:
garments	priests	and thirty	five	hundred
H3801	H3548	H7970	H2568	H3967

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 8:9 (Parallel theme): And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.

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