

**{16} Nehemiah**

**King James Version**

(21) So we laboured in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared.

(22) Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour on the day.

(23) So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, *saving that every one put them off for washing.*

**Chapter 5**

(1) And there was a great cry of the people and of their wives against their brethren the Jews.

(2) For there were that said, We, our sons, and our daughters, *are* many: therefore we take up corn *for them*, that we may eat, and live.

(3) *Some* also there were that said, We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn, because of the dearth.

(4) There were also that said, We have borrowed money for the king's tribute, *and that upon* our lands and vineyards.

**King James Paraphrase**

(21) So we labored in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning until the stars appeared.

(22) Likewise at the same time I said to the people, Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labor in the day.

(23) So neither I, nor my brothers, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us put off our clothes, *except every one put them off for washing.*

**Chapter 5**

(1) And there was a great cry of the people and of their wives against their brothers the Jews.

(2) Because there were those who said, We, our sons, and our daughters, *are* many: therefore we take up corn *for them*, that we may eat, and live.

(3) There were *some* also who said, We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn, because of the draught.

(4) There were also those who said, We have borrowed money for the king's taxes, *and that upon* our lands and vineyards.

**{16} Nehemiah**

**King James Version**

**King James Paraphrase**

(5) Yet now our flesh *is* as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children: and, lo, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be servants, and *some* of our daughters are brought unto bondage *already*: neither *is it* in our power *to redeem them*; for other men have our lands and vineyards.

(6) And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words.

(7) Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said unto them, Ye exact usury, every one of his brother. And I set a great assembly against them.

(8) And I said unto them, We after our ability have redeemed our brethren the Jews, which were sold unto the heathen; and will ye even sell your brethren? or shall they be sold unto us? Then held they their peace, and found nothing *to answer*.

(9) Also I said, It *is* not good that ye do: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies?

(10) I likewise, *and* my brethren, and my servants, might exact of them money and corn: I pray you, let us leave off this usury.

(11) Restore, I pray you, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their oliveyards, and their houses, also the hundredth *part* of the money, and of the corn, the wine, and the oil, that ye exact of them.

(5) Yet now our flesh *is* as the flesh of our brothers, our children as their children: and, look, we bring our sons and our daughters into bondage to be servants, and *some* of our daughters are brought to bondage *already*: neither *is it* in our power *to redeem them*; because other men have our lands and vineyards.

(6) And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words.

(7) Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said to them, You exact usury, every one of his brother. And I set a great assembly against them.

(8) And I said to them, We after our ability have redeemed our brothers the Jews, which were sold to the ungodly nations; and will you even sell your brothers? or shall they be sold to us? Then they held their peace, and found nothing *to answer*.

(9) Also I said, It *is* not good what you do: shouldn't you walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the ungodly nations our enemies?

(10) I likewise, *and* my brothers, and my servants, might exact of them money and corn: I beg you, let us leave off this usury.

(11) I ask you to restore, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their oliveyards, and their houses, also the hundredth *part<sup>a</sup>* of the money, and of the corn, the wine, and the oil, that you exact of them.

5:11a - some argue that usury is an exorbitant interest rate -- here it is clear that 1 percent is unacceptable to the Lord.

**{16} Nehemiah**

**King James Version**

**King James Paraphrase**

(12) Then said they, We will restore *them*, and will require nothing of them; so will we do as thou sayest. Then I called the priests, and took an oath of them, that they should do according to this promise.

(13) Also I shook my lap, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labour, that performeth not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied. And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the LORD. And the people did according to this promise.

(14) Moreover from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even unto the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes the king, *that is*, twelve years, I and my brethren have not eaten the bread of the governor.

(15) But the former governors that *had been* before me were chargeable unto the people, and had taken of them bread and wine, beside forty shekels of silver; yea, even their servants bare rule over the people: but so did not I, because of the fear of God.

(16) Yea, also I continued in the work of this wall, neither bought we any land: and all my servants *were* gathered thither unto the work.

(17) Moreover *there were* at my table an hundred and fifty of the Jews and rulers, beside those that came unto us from among the heathen that *are* about us.

(12) Then they said, We will restore *them*, and will require nothing of them; so we will do as you have said. Then I called the priests, and took an oath of them, that they should do according to this promise.

(13) Also I shook my lap, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labor, who does not perform this promise, even in this manner may he be shaken out, and emptied. And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the LORD {Jehovah}. And the people did according to this promise.

(14) Moreover from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, *that is*, twelve years, I and my brothers have not eaten the bread of the governor.

(15) But the former governors who *had been* before me were chargeable to the people, and had taken from them bread and wine, besides forty shekels {about 16 oz.; 1 lb.; 454 gm.}<sup>b</sup> of silver; yes, even their servants bore rule over the people: but I did not, because of the fear of God.

(16) Yes, also I continued in the work of this wall, neither did we buy any land: and all my servants *were* gathered there to the work.

(17) Moreover *there were* at my table a hundred and fifty of the Jews and rulers, besides those who came to us from among the ungodly nations who *are* around us.

5:15b - shekel = 0.4 ounces = 11.4 grams - see [Appendix J: Bible Weights and Measures](#)