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Nehemiah Helps the Poor Israelites
Nehemiah 5: 1-19

445 BC During the ministry of Nehemiah (see **Bt – The Third Return**).
Compiled by: The Chronicler from the Ezra and Nehemiah Memoirs (see **Ac – Ezra-Nehemiah From a Jewish Perspective: The Nehemiah Memoirs**)**.**

No sooner had the external difficulties been resolved than internal ones reared their ugly heads. Even though **Nehemiah's** workforce had essentially been cut in half – with half the men working while the other half stayed on guard-duty – progress on the wall continued. Yet, at the end of a typical day, **Nehemiah's workers** had neither the time nor the energy left to attend to many of **their** personal responsibilities, such as paying **their** taxes and gathering enough food to feed **their** families.



This led many of **the people** into financial difficulties. **They** had debts that **they** could not pay right away, or **they** had to borrow money to pay **their** taxes. Some of **them** had to go outside **the City** to work as hired hands harvesting other people's crops. In addition, **Nehemiah's** order for **the workers** to remain in **Jerusalem (Nehemiah 4:16)**, evidently had much to do with aggravating the situation. Many **people** in **Yerushalayim** and the surrounding areas were going hungry, and **they** ended up being exploited by those who were more fortunate. These economic pressures created by the rebuilding of **the wall** brought out problems long simmering under the surface that needed to be addressed before the project could proceed. They cried out for help.

ADONAI had given clear instructions to **His people** to be generous to **the poor**. However, **Nehemiah** discovered that despite the work on **the wall** and **the Temple**, **the people** were not obeying the commandments that **Ha'Shem** had given **Isra'el**. In spite of the new start in **the Land**, many **Jews** were still reluctant to live in the way **YHVH** had instructed. **They** were taking unfair advantage of **the poor** for personal gain.[245]