Lisbeth S. Fried. "The Construction of Public Works in the Persian Empire: Nehemiah's Wall as a Test Case"

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REFERENCES

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- 1 L. Fried provides a re-analysis of Nehemiah's account of the construction of Jerusalem's city-wall (Neh. 3). Against a recent suggestion by O. Lipschits, according to whom the building work was financed (גִּזְלָן) by wealthy citizens, she argues that the repairs were undertaken within the context of imperial taxation, in form of corvée labour as denoted by Akkadian *ilku* and Aramaic *halak*. With this aim, she points out parallels in the documentation from elsewhere in the Achaemenid Empire, in particular a letter from the Bactrian satrap Akhvamazda dating to the reign of Artaxerxes III (ADAB A4). This document authorizes a governor to re-assign labour troops under his command; rather than continuing repair works on a city wall, these people were sent out into the fields to help gathering the harvest because of a locust invasion.

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