

Nehemiah 1:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:

Analysis

Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:

This verse within Nehemiah 1 addresses themes of prayer, burden, intercession, confession. Nehemiah's prayer demonstrates model intercession rooted in covenant theology, confessing corporate sin while claiming covenant 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 post-exilic community had returned to Judah but remained politically subject to Persia, living under imperial administration while attempting to rebuild covenant identity. Archaeological evidence confirms Persian-period occupation of Jerusalem and the wall's route. 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 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 1:8 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

זִכְר	אַת	תֵא	אַתְּ	רְבִיעַ	רַ	אֲשֶׁר	אֲלֵיכֶם
Remember	H4994	H853	I beseech thee the word	H1697	H834	that thou commandest	H6680
H2142							
אַתְּ	תִמְשַׁ	לֹ	אַתְּ	מַ	לְאַמְרַ	עֲבָדָךְ	מֵשֶׁה אַתְּ
H853	Moses	thy servant	saying	H859	If ye transgress	H589	
H4872		H5650	H559		H4603		
אַפְ יְ	בְּעָמִים:	אַתְּ	מַ				
I will scatter you abroad	H853	among the nations	H5971				
H6327							

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 28:64 (Parallel theme): And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

Luke 1:72 (Parallel theme): To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;

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