

Nehemiah 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

Analysis

But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Nehemiah 1:9 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

אַתָּה מִעֲשֵׂיתִ מֶלֶךְ	אֶל	וְשִׁבְתָּה	וְשִׁמְרָתֶם	מִצְוֹתִי	וְעַמְּךָ	אֶל	וְשִׁבְתָּה	וְשִׁמְרָתֶם	מִצְוֹתִי	וְעַמְּךָ	אֶל	וְשִׁבְתָּה	וְשִׁמְרָתֶם	מִצְוֹתִי	וְעַמְּךָ	
But if ye turn	H413	unto me and keep	H8104	my commandments	H4687	and do	H853									
H7725			H5080		H7097											
אֵם	הִנֵּה	וְיֻחָדָה	מִתְחַצֵּךְ	בְּגִיאָה												
H518	H1961	them though there were of you cast out	H5080	unto the uttermost part	H7097											
of the heaven	H8033	yet will I gather	H6908	them from thence and will bring	H935											
H8064			H977		H7931											
שְׁמִי	שְׁמִי	אֶת	לִשְׁכָּה	בְּמִרְתֵּה	אֲשֶׁר	בְּמִרְתֵּה	אֲשֶׁר	בְּמִרְתֵּה	אֲשֶׁר	בְּמִרְתֵּה	אֲלֵיכֶם	וְעַמְּךָ	וְעַמְּךָ	וְעַמְּךָ	וְעַמְּךָ	
them unto the place	H834	that I have chosen	H977	to set	H853	my name	H8033									
H4725			H977		H7931											

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 32:37 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely:

Isaiah 56:8 (Parallel theme): The Lord GOD which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him.

Psalms 147:2 (Parallel theme): The LORD doth build up Jerusalem: he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel.

Jeremiah 12:15 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, after that I have plucked them out I will return, and have compassion on them, and will bring them again, every man to his heritage, and every man to his land.

Matthew 24:31 (Parallel theme): And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Deuteronomy 12:5 (Parallel theme): But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come:

Ezra 6:12 (Parallel theme): And the God that hath caused his name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter and to destroy this house of God which is at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be done with speed.

Isaiah 11:12 (Parallel theme): And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Psalms 106:47 (Parallel theme): Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise.

Jeremiah 31:10 (Word): Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.