

# Nehemiah 10:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if the people of the land bring ware or any victuals on the sabbath day to sell, that we would not buy it of them on the sabbath, or on the holy day: and that we would leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt.

## Analysis

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**And if the people of the land bring ware or any victuals on the sabbath day to sell, that we would not buy it of them on the sabbath, or on the holy day: and that we would leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt.**

This verse within Nehemiah 10 addresses themes of covenant renewal, specific commitments, accountability. General confession leads to specific commitments regarding temple support, Sabbath observance, and separation from paganism. 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

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Nehemiah's account occurs during Persian imperial dominance (539-331 BC), specifically 445-433 BC under Artaxerxes I. The spiritual reforms under Ezra and Nehemiah shaped Judaism for centuries, establishing Scripture's centrality and patterns of worship continuing into the intertestamental period and beyond. 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**

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## **Study Questions**

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1. How does regular engagement with Scripture transform understanding of God and His will for your life?
2. What specific commitments do you need to make (or renew) regarding Bible reading, worship, and obedience?
3. How can the principles demonstrated in this passage inform your response to current challenges in your life or church?

## Interlinear Text

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וְעַם יִ	הָאָרֶץ	הַמְבִיאים	אֶת	הַמֶּקֶחַ	וְ	כָל
And if the people	of the land	bring	H853	ware		H3605
H5971	H776	H935		H4728		
שֶׁ בָּר	וְבִיּוֹם	בַּשַּׁבָּת	לִמְכֹר	וְ	לֹא	
or any victuals	day	it of them on the sabbath	to sell			H3808
H7668	H3117	H7676	H4376			
נִקְחָה	מִהֶם	בַּשַּׁבָּת	וְבִיּוֹם	קֹדֶשׁ		
that we would not buy	H1992	it of them on the sabbath	day	or on the holy		
H3947		H7676	H3117	H6944		
וְנִטְּשָׁה	אֶת	הַשָּׁנָה	הַשְּׁבִיעִית	וּמִשָּׁא	כָּל	
and that we would leave	H853	year	the seventh	H4855	H3605	
H5203		H8141	H7637			
יְדִ:						
of every debt						
H3027						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 23:3** (Holy): Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

**Exodus 20:10** (Parallel theme): But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: