

Nehemiah 10:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also we made ordinances for us, to charge ourselves yearly with the third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God;

Analysis

Also we made ordinances for us, to charge ourselves yearly with the third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God;

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

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

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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|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| וְהָעֵמָּה דָּנוּ | עַל יָנוּ | מִצּוֹת | לָנוּ | עַל יָנוּ | שְׁלֹשׁ יָת |
| Also we made | H5921 | ordinances | for us to charge | H5921 | with the third part |
| H5975 | | H4687 | H5414 | | H7992 |
| הֵשֶׁק קָל | בְּשָׁנָה | לְעִבְדָּת | בֵּית | אֱלֹהֵינוּ: | |
| of a shekel | ourselves yearly | for the service | of the house | of our God | |
| H8255 | H8141 | H5656 | H1004 | H430 | |

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 28:22 (References God): And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

