

Nehemiah 10:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And we cast the lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, after the houses of our fathers, at times appointed year by year, to burn upon the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the law:

Analysis

And we cast the lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, after the houses of our fathers, at times appointed year by year, to burn upon the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the law:

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

פְּקֻדָּנִים מִן־בְּגָדָל וְתַּחַת
the lots And we cast H5921 offering H7133 for the wood H6086 among the priests H3548

אֱלֹהִים יְנֻנוּ לְבִתְּהַרְמָם וְבָעֵם
the Levites and the people to bring after the houses of our God H430

בְּשֶׁנְתַּי הַבְּשֶׁנְתַּי מִזְמָנִים יְמִינָה אֶבְרַת יְנֻנוּ לְבִתְּהַרְמָם
after the houses of our fathers at times appointed by year by year H2163 H8141 H8141

בְּתוֹרָה כְּפָתָת וּבְאֱלֹהִים יְנֻנוּ לְבַעַר עַל מִזְבֵּחַ הַיְהוָה אֱלֹהִים יְנֻנוּ לְבַעַר
to burn H5921 upon the altar of the LORD of our God as it is written in the law H430 H3789 H8451

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 13:31 (Sacrifice): And for the wood offering, at times appointed, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.

Isaiah 40:16 (Sacrifice): And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering.