

# 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

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**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

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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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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## **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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הַכֹּהֲנִים יִם הָעֵצִים קָרַבְתָּ עָלֶיךָ הַפִּלֹנִים וְהַגִּזְלִים וְהַגִּזְלִים וְהַגִּזְלִים  
among the priests for the wood offering for the wood among the priests  
H3548 H6086 H7133 H5921 H5307 H1486

אֱלֹהֵינוּ לְבֵית לְהָבִיא וְהָעָם הַלְוִיִּם  
of our God after the houses to bring and the people the Levites  
H430 H1004 H935 H5971 H3881

בְּשָׁנָה בְּשָׁנָה מְזֻמָּנִים יִם לְעֵתֵי יִם אֲבֹתֵינוּ לְבֵית  
by year by year appointed at times at times after the houses  
H8141 H2163 H6256 H1 H1004

בְּתוֹכָהּ: כִּכְתּוּב וְאֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה מִזְבֵּחַ עָלֶיךָ לְבַעַר  
in the law as it is written of our God of the LORD upon the altar to burn  
H8451 H3789 H430 H3068 H4196 H5921 H1197

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.