

Nehemiah 10:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also the firstborn of our sons, and of our cattle, as it is written in the law, and the firstlings of our herds and of our flocks, to bring to the house of our God, unto the priests that minister in the house of our God:

Analysis

Also the firstborn of our sons, and of our cattle, as it is written in the law, and the firstlings of our herds and of our flocks, to bring to the house of our God, unto the priests that minister in 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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

וְאֵת	בְּכֹרֹת	בְּנֵי יִנּוֹ	וּבְהֵמַת יִנּוֹ	כַּכָּתוּב	בְּתוֹךְ הַ
H853	Also the firstborn	of our sons	and of our cattle	as it is written	in the law
	H1060	H1121	H929	H3789	H8451
וְאֵת	בְּכוֹרֵי יְ	בִקְרֵי יִנּוֹ	וְצֹאֵן יִנּוֹ	לְהָבִיא	בְּבֵית יִתְ
H853	H1061	of our herds	and of our flocks	to bring	in the house
		H1241	H6629	H935	H1004
					אֱלֹהֵינוּ:
					H430
	לְכַהֲנָיִם	הַמְשָׁרְתֵי יִם	בְּבֵית יִתְ	אֱלֹהֵינוּ:	
unto the priests	that minister	in the house	of our God		
H3548	H8334	H1004	H430		

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 13:2 (Parallel theme): Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine.

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