

Nehemiah 10:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And that we should bring the firstfruits of our dough, and our offerings, and the fruit of all manner of trees, of wine and of oil, unto the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and the tithes of our ground unto the Levites, that the same Levites might have the tithes in all the cities of our tillage.

Analysis

And that we should bring the firstfruits of our dough, and our offerings, and the fruit of all manner of trees, of wine and of oil, unto the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and the tithes of our ground unto the Levites, that the same Levites might have the tithes in all the cities of our tillage.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וְאַתָּה	וְאֶת	רָאשׁ	יְתִיכָּה	עֲרִיסָת	יְנֵה	וְתְּרוּמָתֵינוּ	וְעַדְלָנֵה	וְפְרִי	וְכָל	לְפָנָים
H853				H6182		H8641		H6529	H3605	
the firstfruits		of our dough		and our offerings		and the fruit				
H7225		H6182		H8641		H6529				
עַז	וְשָׁתְּרֵי	וְיִצְחָקָר	וְיִאָתֵן	וְנָבָא	לְפָנָים					
of all manner of trees	of wine	and of oil	And that we should bring	unto the priests						
H6086	H8492	H3323	H935	H3548						
אֶל	לְשָׁכָן וְתַחַת	בֵּית	אֱלֹהִים יְנֵה	וּמְעֵשָׂר	אֶדְמָתָן נָנוֹת					
H413	to the chambers	of the house	of our God	and the tithes	of our ground					
	H3957	H1004	H430	H4643	H127					
בְּלָיִם	בְּלָיִם	וְהַמְּעֵשָׂר יְמִים	בְּלָיִם	בְּכָל						
that the same Levites	H1992	that the same Levites	H3881	H6237	H3605					
H3881										
עַל	עַל	עַבְדָּתֵנוּ								
in all the cities	of our tillage									
H5892	H5656									

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 23:17 (Parallel theme): Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baken with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto the LORD.

Numbers 18:21 (Parallel theme): And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Nehemiah 13:5 (Sacrifice): And he had prepared for him a great chamber, where aforetime they laid the meat offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the corn, the new wine, and the oil, which was commanded to be given to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and the offerings of the priests.

Nehemiah 13:9 (Sacrifice): Then I commanded, and they cleansed the chambers: and thither brought I again the vessels of the house of God, with the meat offering and the frankincense.

Deuteronomy 18:4 (Parallel theme): The firstfruit also of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the first of the fleece of thy sheep, shalt thou give him.

Deuteronomy 26:2 (References God): That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there.

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