

# Nehemiah 11:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Mattaniah the son of Micha, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, was the principal to begin the thanksgiving in prayer: and Bakbukiah the second among his brethren, and Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun.

## Analysis

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**And Mattaniah the son of Micha, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, was the principal to begin the thanksgiving in prayer: and Bakbukiah the second among his brethren, and Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun.**

This verse within Nehemiah 11 addresses themes of sacrifice, community building, strategic living. Repopulating Jerusalem required sacrifice—willingness to leave comfortable situations to strengthen the covenant community. The Hebrew palal (פָּלָל) for prayer indicates intercession and petition, emphasizing dependence on God. 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. Nehemiah's final reforms address

recurring covenant violations, demonstrating the ongoing challenge of maintaining spiritual commitment across generations. 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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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## 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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וּמִתְנַחַת הַבָּנִים מִיכָּה בֶן יְהוּדָה בֶן אָשָׁר וְאֶפְרַיִם  
And Mattaniah the son of Zabdi the son of Asaph  
H4983 H1121 H4318 H1121 H2067 H1121 H623

רִאשֵׁן בְּתַחְלָה לְתַפְלָה וְיְהוּדָה בֶן בְּקָרְבָּנִים  
was the principal to begin the thanksgiving in prayer and Bakbukiah  
H7218 H8462 H3034 H8605 H1229

מִשְׁנֶה הַבָּנִים מִיכָּה בֶן עֲבָדָא בֶן שְׁמֻמָּא בֶן גָּלָל  
the second among his brethren and Abda the son of Shammua the son of Galal  
H4932 H251 H5653 H1121 H8051 H1121 H1559

בֶן יְהוּדָה  
the son of Jeduthun  
H1121 H3038

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Chronicles 9:15** (Parallel theme): And Bakbakkar, Heresh, and Galal, and Mattaniah the son of Micah, the son of Zichri, the son of Asaph;

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