

Nehemiah 11:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now these are the chief of the province that dwelt in Jerusalem: but in the cities of Judah dwelt every one in his possession in their cities, to wit, Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the Nethinims, and the children of Solomon's servants.

Analysis

Now these are the chief of the province that dwelt in Jerusalem: but in the cities of Judah dwelt every one in his possession in their cities, to wit, Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the Nethinims, and the children of Solomon's servants.

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. 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. 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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics 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

בִּירוּשָׁלַם	וַיָּשֶׁב	אֲשֶׁר	הַמְּדִינָה	כְּאֵשׁ י	וְאֵלֶּה
in Jerusalem	dwelt		of the province	Now these are the chief	
H3389	H3427	H834	H4082	H7218	H428
בְּעִירֵיהֶם	בְּאֻחְזֵתוֹ	אֵשׁ	וַיָּשֶׁב	יְהוּדָה	בְּעִירֵיהֶם
but in the cities	in his possession	every one	dwelt	of Judah	but in the cities
H5892	H272	H376	H3427	H3063	H5892
וּבְנֵי י	וְהַנְּתִינִים	וְהַלְוִיִּם	הַכֹּהֲנִים	יִשְׂרָאֵל	
and the children	and the Nethinims	and the Levites	the priests	to wit Israel	
H1121	H5411	H3881	H3548	H3478	
שְׁלֹמֹה:	עֲבָדָיו				
of Solomon's	servants				
H8010	H5650				

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 7:73 (References Israel): So the priests, and the Levites, and the porters, and the singers, and some of the people, and the Nethinims, and all Israel, dwelt in their cities; and when the seventh month came, the children of Israel were in their cities.

Ezra 2:43 (Parallel theme): The Nethinims: the children of Ziha, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaoth,

Ezra 2:1 (References Jerusalem): Now these are the children of the province that went up out of the captivity, of those which had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon, and came again unto Jerusalem and Judah, every one unto his city;