

Nehemiah 11:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And at Jerusalem dwelt certain of the children of Judah, and of the children of Benjamin. Of the children of Judah; Athaiah the son of Uziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalaleel, of the children of Perez;

Analysis

And at Jerusalem dwelt certain of the children of Judah, and of the children of Benjamin. Of the children of Judah; Athaiah the son of Uziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalaleel, of the children of Perez;

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

וּבִירוּשָׁלַם	יָשָׁב ו	מִבְּנֵי	! הַיְּהוּדָה	מִבְּנֵי	בְּנֵימָן
And at Jerusalem	dwelt	Of the children	of Judah	Of the children	of Benjamin
H3389	H3427	H1121	H3063	H1121	H1144
מִבְּנֵי	! הַיְּהוּדָה	עֲתָהּ ה	מִבְּנֵי	עֲזִיָּה ה	מִבְּנֵי
Of the children	of Judah	Athaiah	Of the children	of Uzziah	Of the children
H1121	H3063	H6265	H1121	H5818	H1121
זְכַרְיָה ה	מִבְּנֵי	אַמְרִיָּה ה	מִבְּנֵי	שִׁפְטָתָה ה	
of Zechariah	Of the children	of Amariah	Of the children	of Shephatiah	
H2148	H1121	H568	H1121	H8203	
מִבְּנֵי	מַהֲלֵלֵל ל	מִבְּנֵי	פָּרֶז:		
Of the children	of Mahalaleel	Of the children	of Perez		
H1121	H4111	H1121	H6557		

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 38:29 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, as he drew back his hand, that, behold, his brother came out: and she said, How hast thou broken forth? this breach be upon thee: therefore his name was called Pharez.