

Nehemiah 13

Chapter 13 of 13 · 31 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Nehemiah's Final Reforms

¹ On that day they read in the book of Moses in the audience of the people; and therein was found written, that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God for ever;

² Because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse them: howbeit our God turned the curse into a blessing.

³ Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude.

The Priest Eliashib and Tobiah

⁴ And before this, Eliashib the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, was allied unto Tobiah:

⁵ 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.

⁶ But in all this time was not I at Jerusalem: for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon came I unto the king, and after certain days obtained I leave of the king:

⁷ And I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house of God.

8 And it grieved me sore: therefore I cast forth all the household stuff of Tobiah out of the chamber.

9 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.

Nehemiah Restores Support for the Levites

10 And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them: for the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled every one to his field.

11 Then contended I with the rulers, and said, Why is the house of God forsaken? And I gathered them together, and set them in their place.

12 Then brought all Judah the tithe of the corn and the new wine and the oil unto the treasuries.

13 And I made treasurers over the treasuries, Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah: and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah: for they were counted faithful, and their office was to distribute unto their brethren.

14 Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof.

The Sabbath Restored

15 In those days saw I in Judah some treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day: and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals.

16 There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the sabbath unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem.

17 Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day?

18 Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath.

19 And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and some of my servants set I at the gates, that there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day.

20 So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Jerusalem once or twice.

21 Then I testified against them, and said unto them, Why lodge ye about the wall? if ye do so again, I will lay hands on you. From that time forth came they no more on the sabbath.

22 And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.

Mixed Marriages Prohibited

23 In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab:

24 And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people.

25 And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves.

26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin.

27 Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, to transgress against our God in marrying strange wives?

28 And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son in law to Sanballat the Horonite: therefore I chased him from me.

29 Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites.

30 Thus cleansed I them from all strangers, and appointed the wards of the priests and the Levites, every one in his business;

31 And for the wood offering, at times appointed, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Covenant — בְּרִית (Berit)

Covenant, treaty

The Hebrew **berit** (בְּרִית) denotes a covenant—a binding agreement, often ratified by blood sacrifice. God's covenants (Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic) structure redemptive history, culminating in the New Covenant.

Faith — אֱמוּנָה (Emunah)

Faithfulness, trust

The Hebrew **emunah** (אֱמוּנָה) encompasses both faith and faithfulness—trusting God and being trustworthy. It implies steadfast reliability, as in 'The just shall live by his faith' (Habakkuk 2:4).

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Law — תּוֹרָה (Torah)

Law, instruction

The Hebrew **Torah** (תּוֹרָה) means law or instruction—God's revealed will for His people. The Law includes moral, civil, and ceremonial commandments, revealing God's character and humanity's need for a Savior.

Love — אַהֲבָה / חֶסֶד (Ahavah / Chesed)

Love / Loyal-love

Hebrew uses **ahavah** (אַהֲבָה) for love generally, but the covenant term **chesed** (חֶסֶד) describes God's steadfast, loyal love—faithful covenant commitment beyond mere emotion.

Mercy — רַחֲמִים (Rachamim)

Compassion, mercy

The Hebrew **rachamim** (רַחֲמִים) derives from 'womb' (rechem), suggesting tender, maternal compassion. God's mercies are 'new every morning' (Lamentations 3:23), showing His compassionate nature.

Priest — כֹהֵן (Kohen)

Priest

The Hebrew **kohen** (כֹהֵן) denotes a priest—one who mediates between God and people through sacrifices and intercession. Aaron and his descendants served as Israel's priests, foreshadowing Christ the Great High Priest.

CROSS REFERENCES**Nehemiah 13:1**

References God: Nehemiah 9:3. **Parallel theme:** Nehemiah 13:23; 2 Kings 23:2

Nehemiah 13:2

Sin: Deuteronomy 23:5. **Blessing:** Psalms 109:28. **Parallel theme:** Numbers 23:18; Micah 6:5; Matthew 25:40

Nehemiah 13:3 **References Israel:** Nehemiah 9:2; Numbers 11:4. **Parallel theme:** Exodus 12:38. **Word:** Nehemiah 10:28

Nehemiah 13:4 **Parallel theme:** Nehemiah 2:10; 12:10; 12:44; 13:28

Nehemiah 13:6 **Kingdom:** Nehemiah 5:14

Nehemiah 13:7 **Parallel theme:** Nehemiah 13:5

Nehemiah 13:9 **References God:** 2 Chronicles 29:5

Nehemiah 13:10 **Parallel theme:** Nehemiah 10:37; Numbers 35:2; Deuteronomy 12:19; Malachi 3:8. **Sin:** Nehemiah 12:47

Nehemiah 13:11 **References God:** Nehemiah 10:39; 13:25. **Parallel theme:** Nehemiah 13:17

Nehemiah 13:12 **Parallel theme:** Nehemiah 12:44; Malachi 3:10

Nehemiah 13:13 **Faith:** Nehemiah 7:2; 2 Kings 12:15; 22:7; 1 Corinthians 4:2. **Parallel theme:** Nehemiah 12:44; Acts 6:1; 6:3

Nehemiah 13:14 **References God:** Nehemiah 13:22; Ezra 7:20; 7:27; Hebrews 6:10. **Good:** Nehemiah 5:19; 13:31; 1 Chronicles 29:3; 2 Chronicles 24:16

Nehemiah 13:15

Parallel theme: Nehemiah 10:31; 13:21; Exodus 34:21; 35:2; Deuteronomy 8:19; Isaiah 58:13; Jeremiah 17:24; Ezekiel 20:13. **References Jerusalem:** Jeremiah 17:27

Nehemiah 13:17 **Parallel theme:** Nehemiah 13:11; 13:25

Nehemiah 13:19 **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 23:32

Nehemiah 13:21 **Parallel theme:** Ezra 7:26; 1 Peter 2:14

Nehemiah 13:22 **References God:** Nehemiah 13:14; 13:31. **Parallel theme:** Nehemiah 12:30

Nehemiah 13:23 **Parallel theme:** Nehemiah 10:30; 13:1; Ezra 10:10

Nehemiah 13:25

Parallel theme: Nehemiah 13:17; Deuteronomy 7:3. **Creation:** Ezra 10:5. **References God:** Nehemiah 13:11

Nehemiah 13:26 **Kingdom:** 1 Kings 3:13; 2 Chronicles 1:12. **Sin:** Ecclesiastes 7:26

Nehemiah 13:27 **References God:** Ezra 10:2

Nehemiah 13:28 **Parallel theme:** Nehemiah 2:10; 2:19; 3:1; 12:10; 12:22

Nehemiah 13:29 **References God:** Nehemiah 6:14

Nehemiah 13:30 **Parallel theme:** Nehemiah 10:30

Nehemiah 13:31 **Good:** Nehemiah 13:14; Psalms 25:7. **References God:** Nehemiah 13:22. **Sacrifice:** Nehemiah 10:34. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 106:4