

# Nehemiah 13:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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;

## Analysis

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**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;**

This verse within Nehemiah 13 addresses themes of reform, confronting compromise, vigilance, finishing well. Nehemiah's return from Persia reveals backsliding, requiring renewed reforms in areas previously addressed—showing constant vigilance's necessity. 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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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## **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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בַּאֲזֵן י'	מֹשֶׁה	בְּסֵפֶר	נִקְרָא	הָהּ וְאֵל	בֵּי יוֹם
in the audience	of Moses	in the book	they read	H1931	On that day
H241	H4872	H5612	H7121		H3117
לֹא	אֶשְׂרָא	בִּוְכָתוּב	וּנְמָצָא	הָעָם	
H3808	H834	H0	H3789	and therein was found	of the people
				H4672	H5971
בְּקִה ל	וּמֹאבִי	עַמּוֹנִי	יֵב וְאֵל		
into the congregation	and the Moabite	that the Ammonite	should not come		
H6951	H4125	H5984	H935		
עוֹלָם:	עַד	הָאֵלֹהִים יוֹם			
ever	for	of God			
H5769	H5704	H430			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Nehemiah 9:3** (References God): And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed, and worshipped the LORD their God.

**Nehemiah 13:23** (Parallel theme): In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab:

**2 Kings 23:2** (Parallel theme): And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.