

Nehemiah 13:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

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|---------------------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----------|--------------|
| וְאָרְ יִבֶּה | אֶת | הַסִּגְנֵי יָם | וְאֵל מֶלֶךְ הַ | מֵד וַעֲ | בִּנְיָן בִּ |
| Then contended | H854 | I with the rulers | and said | H4069 | forsaken |
| H7378 | | H5461 | H559 | | H5800 |
| בֵּית | הָאֱלֹהִים יָם | וְאֵל קִבְּצָם | וְאֶעֱמִדָם | עַל | |
| Why is the house | of God | And I gathered them together | and set | H5921 | |
| H1004 | H430 | H6908 | H5975 | | |
| עִמָּדָם: | | | | | |
| them in their place | | | | | |
| H5977 | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 10:39 (References God): For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the corn, of the new wine, and the oil, unto the chambers, where are the vessels of the sanctuary, and the priests that minister, and the porters, and the singers: and we will not forsake the house of our God.

Nehemiah 13:17 (Parallel theme): 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?

Nehemiah 13:25 (References God): 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.

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