

Nehemiah 13:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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

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

אֵל תַּעֲלֵ יְנוּ	אֱלֹהֵי יְנוּ	וַיָּבֹא	אָבִי תִיכֶם	עָשׂוּ	כֹּה	הֵל וְאֵל
H5921	H853	H935	H1	H6213	H3541	H3808
		bring	not your fathers	Did		
וְאֵתָם	הֵל אֵת	הָעִיר	וְעַל	הֵל אֵת	הָכָל הָ	כָּל
H859	H2063	H5892	H5921	H2063	H7451	H3605
		upon us and upon this city			all this evil	
הַשַּׁבָּת:	אֵת	לְחַלֵּל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	עַל	חֲרוֹן	מוֹסִיף יִם
H7676	H853	H2490	H3478	H5921	H2740	H3254
the sabbath		by profaning	upon Israel		wrath	more