

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

אִתְּ עַל יְכוֹנֵן אֱלֹהִים יְכוֹנֵן יְבִיא אֶבְתִּיכְמָעָשׂוּ כִּי הַבָּל וְאַ
H3808 H3541 Did not your fathers bring not our God H5921 H853
H6213 H1 H935 H430

אַתְּ מִבְּזִבְחָתָה כָּל עַל בָּזָאת בְּרַעַת הַבָּעֵר
H3605 all this evil H2063 H5921 upon us and upon this city H2063 H859
H7451 H5892

פְּשִׁבְתָּה: אַתְּ לִמְלֵל יְשִׁבָּא לְעַל סְרוֹן מִזְסִיפָּי יְמָם
more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath
H3254 H2740 H5921 H3478 H2490 H853 H7676