

Nehemiah 13:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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

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 John 4:8 — God is 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

וְלֹא יָנוּ	הַרְכָּלִים	וּמֹכְרֵי	כָּל	מִמְּכָר	מִחַ וְיָ
lodged	So the merchants	and sellers	H3605	of all kind of ware	without
H3885	H7402	H4376		H4465	H2351
וְשָׁתָּיִם:	פַּעַם	לִירוּשָׁלַם			
or twice	once	Jerusalem			
H8147	H6471	H3389			

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