

Nehemiah 13:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab:

Analysis

In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab:

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 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

גַּם	בָּמָּ יָמִים	הָיָה	כִּי רָאִיתִי	אֶת	הַיְּהוּדִים	הָשִׁיבֻּ
H1571	In those days	H1992	also saw	H853	I Jews	that had married
	H3117		H7200		H3064	H3427
נָשִׁים	אֲשֶׁדּוֹדֵי	וְ	עַמּוֹנֵי	וְ	מֹאבִּיּוֹת:	
wives	of Ashdod		of Ammon		and of Moab	
H802	H796		H5984		H4125	

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 10:30 (Parallel theme): And that we would not give our daughters unto the people of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons:

Nehemiah 13:1 (Parallel theme): 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;

Ezra 10:10 (Parallel theme): And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel.

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