

Nehemiah 13:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people.

Analysis

And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וּבְנֵיהֶם	חֲצִי	לֹא יִדְבַּר	אֲשֶׁדּוּד יֵת	וְאֵין	מִכֹּהֶן יֵם
And their children	half	not speak	in the speech of Ashdod	H369	and could
H1121	H2677	H1696	H797		H5234
לֹא יִדְבַּר	יְהוּדִים יֵת	וְכָל־שָׂוֶן	וְעַם:		
not speak	in the Jews' language	but according to the language	of each people		
H1696	H3066	H3956	H5971		
וְעַם:					
of each people					
H5971					