

# Nehemiah 13:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves.

## Analysis

**And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves.**

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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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מִקְרָא	וְאֶת	יְאָכַלְלָה	עַפְמָם	וְאֶתְלַמְּדָה	וְאֶתְבַּשְׂעִיר	וְאֶתְבַּשְׂעִיר	מִקְרָא
And I contended	H5973	with them and cursed	H7043	them and smote	H5221		H1992
H7378			H7043		H5221		
אֶנְשׂוֹת	וְאֶתְלַמְּדָת	וְאֶתְבַּשְׂעִיר	וְאֶתְבַּשְׂעִיר	וְאֶתְבַּשְׂעִיר	וְאֶתְבַּשְׂעִיר	בְּאֵלָה	וְאֶתְבַּשְׂעִיר
H376	of them and plucked off their hair	H4803	and made them swear	H7650		by God	H430
H518	saying Ye shall not give	H5414	their daughters	H1323	unto their sons	H518	nor take
				H1121		H5375	
וְאֶתְלַמְּדָת	וְאֶתְבַּשְׂעִיר	וְאֶתְבַּשְׂעִיר					
their daughters	unto their sons	H1121					
H1323			H0				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Nehemiah 13:17** (Parallel theme): Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day?

**Ezra 10:5** (Creation): Then arose Ezra, and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they should do according to this word. And they sware.

**Nehemiah 13:11** (References God): Then contended I with the rulers, and said, Why is the house of God forsaken? And I gathered them together, and set them in their place.

**Deuteronomy 7:3** (Parallel theme): Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.