

Nehemiah 13:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, to transgress against our God in marrying strange wives?

Analysis

Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, to transgress against our God in marrying strange wives?

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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 | הֲנִשְׁמָע | לַעֲשׂוֹת | אֵלֶיךָ | כָּל | הָרָעָה |
| H0 | Shall we then hearken | unto you to do | H853 | H3605 | evil |
| | H8085 | H6213 | | | H7451 |
| הַגְּדוֹלָה | הַזֹּאת | לְמַעַן | בְּאֵלֵינוּ | לְהִנָּשׂוּת | נָשִׁים |
| all this great | H2063 | to transgress | against our God | in marrying | wives |
| H1419 | | H4603 | H430 | H3427 | H802 |
| נִכְרִיזִית: | | | | | |
| strange | | | | | |
| H5237 | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 10:2 (References God): And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing.

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