

Nehemiah 13:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites.

Analysis

Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of 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

גַּאֲלֵי עַל־מִצְבָּה זִכְבָּה הַלְּבָבִים
Remember them O my God because they have defiled
H1992 H430 H5921 H1352

וְלֹא־יִתְּכַחַד הַכֹּהֵן וְלֹא־יִתְּכַחַד הַכֹּהֵן וְלֹא־יִתְּכַחַד הַכֹּהֵן
of the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and of the Levites
H3550 H1285 H3550 H3881

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 6:14 (References God): My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear.

