

Nehemiah 13:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude.

Analysis

Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude.

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 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וְיָהִי	בְּשִׁמְעַת	הַתֹּוךְ הַאֲתָה
H1961	Now it came to pass when they had heard	H853
	H8085	H8451
that they separated	כָּל רַב יִצְחָק יָלֹן	מִשְׁרָאֵל:
H914	H3605	H6154
	all the mixed multitude	from Israel
	H3478	

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 9:2 (References Israel): And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers.

Exodus 12:38 (Parallel theme): And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle.

Nehemiah 10:28 (Word): And the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the porters, the singers, the Nethinims, and all they that had separated themselves from the people of the lands unto the law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, every one having knowledge, and having understanding;

Numbers 11:4 (References Israel): And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?

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