

Nehemiah 13:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And before this, Eliashib the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, was allied unto Tobiah:

Analysis

And before this, Eliashib the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, was allied unto Tobiah:

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וְلֹפֶנְיָה	מִן הַ	אֶלְיָשִׁיב	בְּפַהּ	נָתָן אֵלָיו	בְּלֹשֶׁכּוֹ תִּ
And before	H2088	this Eliashib	the priest	having the oversight	of the chamber
H6440		H475	H3548	H5414	H3957

בֵּית	וְבָ	אֱלֹהִים	כִּרְבָּן	לְטוּבָה:
of the house	of our God	was allied	unto Tobiah	

H1004	H430	H7138	H2900
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Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 12:44 (Parallel theme): And at that time were some appointed over the chambers for the treasures, for the offerings, for the firstfruits, and for the tithes,

to gather into them out of the fields of the cities the portions of the law for the priests and Levites: for Judah rejoiced for the priests and for the Levites that waited.

Nehemiah 2:10 (Parallel theme): When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

Nehemiah 13:28 (Parallel theme): And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son in law to Sanballat the Horonite: therefore I chased him from me.

Nehemiah 12:10 (Parallel theme): And Jeshua begat Joiakim, Joiakim also begat Eliashib, and Eliashib begat Joiada,

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