

# Nehemiah 7:65

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and Thummim.

## Analysis

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**And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and Thummim.**

This verse within Nehemiah 7 addresses themes of organization, genealogy, remembrance, continuity. With physical security established, Nehemiah organizes administration and records genealogies, showing continuity with God's promises. 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

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Nehemiah's account occurs during Persian imperial dominance (539-331 BC), specifically 445-433 BC under Artaxerxes I. The spiritual reforms under Ezra and Nehemiah shaped Judaism for centuries, establishing Scripture's centrality and patterns of worship continuing into the intertestamental period and beyond. 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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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does Nehemiah 7:65 deepen your understanding of God's character and His work in human history?
2. What specific action or attitude change does this verse call you to make in your walk with God?
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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וַיֹּאמֶר	וְהַתִּרְשָׁתָּהּ תֵּא	לָהּ מִ	אֲשֶׁר רָ	לֹא
said	And the Tirshatha	H0	H834	H3808
H559	H8660			
וְיֹאכְלוּ	וְהַקְדָּשִׁים	וְהַקְדָּשִׁים	עַד	עַמְּדוּ
unto them that they should not eat	holy things	holy things	H5704	till there stood
H398	H6944	H6944		H5975
וְהָפָה	וְלֹאֲוֹרִים	וְתוֹמִיִּם:		
up a priest	with Urim	and Thummim		
H3548	H224	H8550		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Nehemiah 8:9** (Holy): And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.

**Exodus 28:30** (Parallel theme): And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the LORD: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually.

**Nehemiah 10:1** (Parallel theme): Now those that sealed were, Nehemiah, the Tirshatha, the son of Hachaliah, and Zidkijah,

**Deuteronomy 33:8** (Holy): And of Levi he said, Let thy Thummim and thy Urim be with thy holy one, whom thou didst prove at Massah, and with whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah;

**Ezra 2:63** (Holy): And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim.

**Numbers 27:21** (Parallel theme): And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.