

Nehemiah 8:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

Analysis

Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

This verse within Nehemiah 8 addresses themes of Scripture centrality, teaching, understanding, worship. The public Scripture reading demonstrates how spiritual renewal requires understanding God's Word, not mere ritual observance. 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. 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

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

וְאָמַר	וְאָמַר	לְבָם	לְבָם	לְכָה	לְכָה	אָכְלָה	אָכְלָה	מִשְׁמֶן יִם	מִשְׁמֶן יִם	וְאָמַר	וְאָמַר
Then he said		H0		unto them	Go your way		eat	the fat	and drink		
		H559			H3212		H398	H4924	H8354		
the sweet	and send	the sweet	and send	portions		H369	unto them	for whom nothing is prepared			
H4477	H7971	H4477	H7971	H4490		H369		H3559			
is holy	for this day	is holy	for this day	unto our Lord		H408	neither be ye sorry				
H3588	H3117	H6918	H3117	H113		H408	H6087				
for the joy	of the LORD	for the joy	of the LORD	unto our Lord			neither be ye sorry				
H2304	H3068	H1931	H4581				H3588				
מְעִזָּמָה											
for the joy	of the LORD	for the joy	of the LORD	unto our Lord			neither be ye sorry				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 17:22 (Parallel theme): A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Ecclesiastes 9:7 (Parallel theme): Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.

Psalms 149:2 (Parallel theme): Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

Isaiah 61:10 (References Lord): I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Esther 9:19 (Parallel theme): Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.

2 Corinthians 8:2 (Parallel theme): How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

Ecclesiastes 2:24 (Parallel theme): There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.

Esther 9:22 (Parallel theme): As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.

Ecclesiastes 3:13 (Parallel theme): And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.

Joel 2:23 (References Lord): Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.