

Nehemiah 8:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness.

Analysis

And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness.

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

עָשׂוּ done so H6213	כָּל H3605	וְהָקְהָל And all the congregation H6951	הַשֹּׁבִים of them that were come again H7725	מִן H4480
הַשֹּׁבִים out of the captivity H7628	בַּסֻּכּוֹת booths H5521	וַיֵּשְׁבוּ and sat H3427	בַּסֻּכּוֹת booths H5521	כִּי H3588
לֹא H3808	עָשׂוּ done so H6213	כֵּן H3651	נֹון of Nun H5126	בְּיָמֵי H3117
הַיּוֹם for since the days H3117	יֵשׁוּעַ of Jeshua H3442	בְּנֵי יִ had not the children H1121	הַיּוֹם for since the days H3117	וַתְּהִי H1961
הַיּוֹם had not the children H1121	יִשְׂרָאֵל of Israel H3478	עַד H5704	הַיּוֹם for since the days H3117	וַתְּהִי H1961
גְּדוֹלָה great H1419	שִׂמְחָה gladness H8057	מְאֹד: And there was very H3966		

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 8:13 (Parallel theme): Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts, three times in the year, even in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles.

Ezra 3:4 (Parallel theme): They kept also the feast of tabernacles, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the custom, as the duty of every day required;