

Nehemiah 9:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them.

Analysis

Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them.

This verse within Nehemiah 9 addresses themes of confession, God's faithfulness, corporate prayer, covenant history. Extended corporate prayer recounts God's faithfulness through Israel's history while honestly confessing persistent covenant violations. 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

וְבַיּוֹם	הַשְׁעָרִים	וְאֶרְבֶּעָה	לְחַדְשָׁה	וְהַיּוֹם	וְאֶסְפֵּר
day	Now in the twenty	and fourth	of this month	H2088	were assembled
H3117	H6242	H702	H2320		H622
בָּנִי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּצָאתָם	וְבְרִישָׁתָם	תְּאַדְמָה	עַלְיָקָם:
the children	of Israel	with fasting	and with sackclothes	and earth	H5921
H1121	H3478	H6685	H8242	H127	

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 8:2 (Parallel theme): And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

Joshua 7:6 (References Israel): And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads.

Ezra 8:23 (Parallel theme): So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us.

1 Samuel 4:12 (Parallel theme): And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shiloh the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head.

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