

Nehemiah 9:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou didst divide the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; and their persecutors thou threwest into the deeps, as a stone into the mighty waters.

Analysis

And thou didst divide the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; and their persecutors thou threwest into the deeps, as a stone into the mighty waters.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

הַיָּם	בְּקַעַת	לִפְנֵיהֶם	וַעֲבָרוּ	
of the sea	And thou didst divide	before	them so that they went through	
H3220	H1234	H6440	H5674	
בְּתוֹךְ	הַיָּם	בַּבֶּשֶׁה	וְאֵת	רֹדְפֵיהֶם
the midst	of the sea	on the dry land	H853 and their persecutors	thou threwest
H8432	H3220	H3004	H7291	H7993
בְּמַצוֹלַי	כְּמוֹ	אֶבֶן	בְּמַיִם	עֲזִים:
into the deeps	H3644	as a stone	waters	into the mighty
H4688		H68	H4325	H5794

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 78:13 (Parallel theme): He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as an heap.

Hebrews 11:29 (Parallel theme): By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

Psalms 66:6 (Parallel theme): He turned the sea into dry land: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him.

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