

Nehemiah 9:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments:

Analysis

Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments:

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וְעַל H5921	הָרֹ H2022	סִינַי H5514	יָבֹדָה H3381	וְדִבֶּר H1696	עֲמָהּ H5973
also upon mount		Sinai	Thou camest down	and spakest	
מִשָּׁמַיִם H8064	וַתֵּן H5414	לָהֶם H0	מִשְׁפָּטִים H4941	יְשָׁרִים H3477	חֻקֵּי H8451
with them from heaven	and gavest		judgments	them right	laws
וְאֵם H571	חֻקֵּי H2706	וּמִצְוֹת H4687	טוֹבִים H2896		
and true	statutes	and commandments	good		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:160 (Judgment): Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

Exodus 20:1 (Word): And God spake all these words, saying,

Exodus 19:11 (Sin): And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.

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