

Nehemiah 9:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers.

Analysis

And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers.

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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

נִכְרְתָּה	בְּנֵי	מִכֶּל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּעֵד	תִּקְדְּשָׁוּ	רַ	נִכְרְתָּה	בְּנֵי	מִכֶּל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּעֵד	תִּקְדְּשָׁוּ	רַ	
separated	And the seed	of Israel		H3605	themselves from all strangers									H5236
H914	H2233	H3478				H1121								

עָמַד	וְתִּعְמַד	עַל	מִתְּעִנָּדָה	מִתְּעִנָּדָה	וְתִּעְמַד	עָמַד	וְתִּעְמַד	עַל	מִתְּעִנָּדָה	מִתְּעִנָּדָה	וְתִּעְמַד	עָמַד	וְתִּעְמַד	עַל	
and stood	and confessed	H5921	their sins	H2403	and the iniquities	H5771	of their fathers	H1							
H5975	H3034														

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 13:3 (References Israel): Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude.

Ezra 10:11 (Parallel theme): Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives.

Nehemiah 13:30 (Sin): Thus cleansed I them from all strangers, and appointed the wards of the priests and the Levites, every one in his business;

Daniel 9:20 (Sin): And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God;

Hosea 5:7 (Parallel theme): They have dealt treacherously against the LORD: for they have begotten strange children: now shall a month devour them with their portions.

Psalms 144:11 (Parallel theme): Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood:

Ezra 9:2 (Parallel theme): For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass.

Isaiah 2:6 (Parallel theme): Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers.

Psalms 144:7 (Parallel theme): Send thine hand from above; rid me, and deliver me out of great waters, from the hand of strange children;

Nehemiah 1:6 (Sin): Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.