

Nehemiah 9:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they took strong cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses full of all goods, wells digged, vineyards, and oliveyards, and fruit trees in abundance: so they did eat, and were filled, and became fat, and delighted themselves in thy great goodness.

Analysis

And they took strong cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses full of all goods, wells digged, vineyards, and oliveyards, and fruit trees in abundance: so they did eat, and were filled, and became fat, and delighted themselves in thy great goodness.

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is 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

וַלָּקְדוּ	עָרִים	בְּצָרוֹת	וְאֶדְמָה ה	שְׁמֵנָה	וַיִּרְשׁוּ	בָתֵּי יִם
And they took	cities	strong	land	and a fat	and possessed	houses
H3920	H5892	H1219	H127	H8082	H3423	H1004
מְלֵאִים	כָּל	בְּטוֹבָה	בָּר וְת	חֲצוֹב יִם	כָּכֶם יִם	וַיְהִי יִם
full	H3605	goodness	wells	digged	vineyards	and oliveyards
H4392		H2898	H953	H2672	H3754	H2132
וְעֵץ	מֵאֵץ ל	לָר ב	וַיֹּאכְלוּ	וַיִּשְׂבְּעוּ	וַיִּשְׂמֵנוּ	
trees	and fruit	in abundance	so they did eat	and were filled	and became fat	
H6086	H3978	H7230	H398	H7646	H8080	
וַיִּתְעַדְּנוּ	בְּטוֹבָה	הַגָּדוֹל:				
and delighted	goodness	themselves in thy great				
H5727	H2898	H1419				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 32:15 (Light): But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.

Nehemiah 9:35 (Good): For they have not served thee in their kingdom, and in thy great goodness that thou gavest them, and in the large and fat land which thou gavest before them, neither turned they from their wicked works.

Deuteronomy 3:5 (Parallel theme): All these cities were fenced with high walls, gates, and bars; beside unwalled towns a great many.

Deuteronomy 32:13 (Parallel theme): He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;

Ezekiel 20:6 (Parallel theme): In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands:

1 Kings 8:66 (Good): On the eighth day he sent the people away: and they blessed the king, and went unto their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the LORD had done for David his servant, and for Israel his people.

Hosea 3:5 (Good): Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.

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