

Nehemiah 9:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But after they had rest, they did evil again before thee:
therefore leftest thou them in the hand of their enemies, so
that they had the dominion over them: yet when they
returned, and cried unto thee, thou heardest them from
heaven; and many times didst thou deliver them according to
thy mercies;

Analysis

But after they had rest, they did evil again before thee: therefore leftest thou them in the hand of their enemies, so that they had the dominion over them: yet when they returned, and cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and many times didst thou deliver them according to thy mercies;

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. These 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. What balance between spiritual response (prayer) and practical action (wise planning) does this passage model?

Interlinear Text

וְכֵן וָח	לָהֶם	וַיַּשׁ וְבוֹ	לָעַשׂ וְת	בַּעַ	לִפְנֵי יְיָ
But after they had rest	H0	again	they did	evil	before
H5117		H7725	H6213	H7451	H6440
וַתַּעֲזֹב	בְּיָד	אֹיְבֵיהֶם			
thee therefore leftest	thou them in the hand	of their enemies			
H5800	H3027	H341			
וְיָדָו	בָּהֶם	וַיַּשׁ וְבוֹ	וַיִּזְעַק וְ	וְאָתָּה	
so that they had the dominion	H0	again	and cried	H859	
H7287		H7725	H2199		
מִשָּׁמַיִם	תִּשְׁמַע	וַתַּצִּיל			
them from heaven	unto thee thou heardest	didst thou deliver			
H8064	H8085	H5337			
כְּרִמָּתָם יְיָ	רַב וְת	עֲתִים			
them according to thy mercies	and many	times			
H7356	H7227	H6256			

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 8:39 (Parallel theme): Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)

Judges 4:1 (Evil): And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, when Ehud was dead.

Judges 3:30 (Parallel theme): So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest fourscore years.