

Nehemiah 9:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed, and worshipped the LORD their God.

Analysis

And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed, and worshipped the LORD their God.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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

וַיִּקֹּם וַיִּמּוּ	עַל	עֲמָדָם	וַיִּקְרָא ו	בְּסֵפֶר	תּוֹכָהּ
And they stood up	H5921	in their place	and read	in the book	of the law
H6965		H5977	H7121	H5612	H8451
לִיהוָה	אֱלֹהֵיהֶם:	וּרְבַעִית	הַיּוֹם	וּרְבַעִית	
of the LORD	their God	and another fourth part	of the day	and another fourth part	
H3068	H430	H7243	H3117	H7243	
מִתְוַדִּים	וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוִים	לִיהוָה	אֱלֹהֵיהֶם:		
they confessed	and worshipped	of the LORD	their God		
H3034	H7812	H3068	H430		

