

Nehemiah 9:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nevertheless for thy great mercies' sake thou didst not utterly consume them, nor forsake them; for thou art a gracious and merciful God.

Analysis

Nevertheless for thy great mercies' sake thou didst not utterly consume them, nor forsake them; for thou art a gracious and merciful 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

כֹּל הַעֲשֵׂית מִלְּאָמִן וְכֹרֶב חֶמֶת יְבָרֶךְ יְמִינְךָ יְמִינְךָ לֹא
mercies Nevertheless for thy great sake thou didst not utterly consume
H7356 H7227 H3808 H6213 H3617

וְלֹא תִּזְבַּח מִן כָּל אֱלֹהִים
H3808 them nor forsake H3588 God H410 them for thou art a gracious and merciful
H5800 H2587 H7349

אֱלֹהִים:

H859

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 4:27 (Parallel theme): For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.

Nehemiah 9:17 (Grace): And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.

Jeremiah 5:18 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless in those days, saith the LORD, I will not make a full end with you.

Lamentations 3:22 (Parallel theme): It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

Jeremiah 5:10 (Parallel theme): Go ye up upon her walls, and destroy; but make not a full end: take away her battlements; for they are not the LORD'S.

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