

Nehemiah 9:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who keepest covenant and mercy, let not all the trouble seem little before thee, that hath come upon us, on our kings, on our princes, and on our priests, and on our prophets, and on our fathers, and on all thy people, since the time of the kings of Assyria unto this day.

Analysis

Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who keepest covenant and mercy, let not all the trouble seem little before thee, that hath come upon us, on our kings, on our princes, and on our priests, and on our prophets, and on our fathers, and on all thy people, since the time of the kings of Assyria unto this day.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וַיְמַצֵּן אֱלֹהִינוּ וְאֶת־הָרָא
H6258 Now therefore our God H430 God H410 the great H1419 the mighty H1368 and the terrible H3372

שְׁמַרְתָּנוּ רְשָׁוָתְךָ וְמִנְּסָדְךָ
who keepest covenant and mercy H8104 H1285 H2617 seem little H408 H4591 before H853 H3605

לֹא תְּתַלֵּא הַלְּשָׁן יְמִינֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ
let not all the trouble H834 thee that hath come H4672 of the kings H4428 on our princes H8269

וְלֹא־כָל וְלֹא־בָתִים יְמִינֵינוּ וְלֹא־כָבֵן יְמִינֵינוּ
and on our priests and on our prophets and on our fathers H3548 H5030 H1 H3605

וְלֹא־כָל וְלֹא־בָתִים מֶלֶךְ אֶשְׁׁר עַד הַיּוֹם
and on all thy people since the time of the kings of Assyria H5971 H3117 H4428 H804 H5704 since the time H3117

בְּזַהַה:

H2088

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 1:5 (Grace): And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:

Deuteronomy 7:9 (Grace): Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

Daniel 9:8 (Kingdom): O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee.

Daniel 9:4 (Grace): And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;

Daniel 9:6 (Kingdom): Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org