

Nehemiah 9:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Neither have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers, kept thy law, nor hearkened unto thy commandments and thy testimonies, wherewith thou didst testify against them.

Analysis

Neither have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers, kept thy law, nor hearkened unto thy commandments and thy testimonies, wherewith thou didst testify against them.

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וְאַתָּה	מֶלֶךְ	יְנָנוּ	שָׁרֵךְ	יְנָנוּ	כָּהֵן	יְנָנוּ	לְאַבָּת	יְנָנוּ	לְאַבָּת
H853	Neither have our kings	our princes	our priests	nor our fathers					H3808
	H4428	H8269	H3548	H1					
וְאַתָּה	הַקְשֵׁת	יְבָרֵךְ	וְלֹא	אֶל	מְצָוֹת	יְבָרֵךְ	וְאַתָּה	מְצָוֹת	יְבָרֵךְ
kept	thy law	H3808	nor hearkened	H413	unto thy commandments	H4687			
H6213	H8451		H7181						
וְאַתָּה	רְאֵשׁ	מְעִיד	מְעִיד	בְּבָבְמָן					
and thy testimonies	H834	wherewith thou didst testify	H5749	H0					
	H5715								

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 29:19 (Word): Because they have not hearkened to my words, saith the LORD, which I sent unto them by my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them; but ye would not hear, saith the LORD.

2 Kings 17:13 (Word): Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.