

Nehemiah 9:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For they have not served thee in their kingdom, and in thy great goodness that thou gavest them, and in the large and fat land which thou gavest before them, neither turned they from their wicked works.

Analysis

For they have not served thee in their kingdom, and in thy great goodness that thou gavest them, and in the large and fat land which thou gavest before them, neither turned they from their wicked works.

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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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 does understanding your work as part of God's larger purposes transform your approach to daily responsibilities?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה H1992	בְּמַלְכוּתָם H4438	וּבְטוֹבָה H2898	הַגָּדוֹל H7227	אֲשֶׁר H834	נָתַתָּה H5414
	thee in their kingdom	goodness	and in thy great		that thou gavest
וּבְאֶרֶץ H0	וְהֵם H776	וּבְרָחֵם H7342	וּבְשֶׁמֶן H8082	אֲשֶׁר H834	נָתַתָּה H5414
	land	them and in the large	and fat		that thou gavest
לִפְנֵיהֶם H6440	לֹא H3808	עָבְדוּ H5647	וְלֹא H3808	שָׁבוּ H7725	
	before	For they have not served		them neither turned	
מִמַּעֲלָלֵיהֶם H4611	הָרָעִים H7451				
	works	they from their wicked			

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 28:47 (Parallel theme): Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

Jeremiah 5:19 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, when ye shall say, Wherefore doeth the LORD our God all these things unto us? then shalt thou answer them, Like as ye have forsaken me, and served strange gods in your land, so shall ye serve strangers in a land that is not your's.