

# 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

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**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

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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

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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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

נָתַתְּתָּ אֲשֶׁר בְּרָכָה וּבְרָכָה בְּמַלְכוֹתָם וְבְרָכָה בְּמַלְכוֹתָם  
H1992 thee in their kingdom H4438 H2898 H7227 H834 that thou gavest H5414

נִתְתַּתְּ לְךָ וּבָא רָא וְרָחַב הַיּוֹם וְשָׁמְנָה אֲשֶׁר תְּנַתֶּן תְּנַתֶּן  
H0 **land** them and in the large and fat H834 **that thou gavest**  
H776 H7342 H8082 H5414

לֹא	לְפִנֵּיהֶם	עָבֹד וְבָ	וְלֹא	בָּוֹשֵׁת
<b>before</b>	H3808	<b>For they have not served</b>	H3808	<b>them neither turned</b>
H6440		H5647		H7725

מִמְעָלֵיכֶם בְּגָעִים: works they from their wicked H4611 H7451

## 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.

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