

# Nehemiah 9:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, we are servants this day, and for the land that thou gavest unto our fathers to eat the fruit thereof and the good thereof, behold, we are servants in it:

## Analysis

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**Behold, we are servants this day, and for the land that thou gavest unto our fathers to eat the fruit thereof and the good thereof, behold, we are servants in it:**

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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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## 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 can the principles demonstrated in this passage inform your response to current challenges in your life or church?

## Interlinear Text

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הַיּוֹם	אֲנִי וְאִמִּי	הֵי אֵם	עֲבָדֵי יְיָ	וְהָאָרֶץ	אֲשֶׁר
H2009	H587				H834
	<b>this day</b>		<b>Behold we are servants</b>	<b>and for the land</b>	
	H3117		H5650	H776	
נָתַתָּה	לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ	לֶאֱכֹל	אֶת	פְּרִיָּהּ	וְאֶת
			H853		H853
<b>that thou gavest</b>	<b>unto our fathers</b>	<b>to eat</b>		<b>the fruit</b>	
H5414	H1	H398		H6529	
טוֹבָהּ	הַיּוֹם	אֲנִי וְאִמִּי	עֲבָדֵי יְיָ	עָלֶיהָ:	
					H5921
<b>thereof and the good</b>			<b>Behold we are servants</b>		
H2898	H2009	H587	H5650		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezra 9:9** (Parallel theme): For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.

**Deuteronomy 28:48** (Parallel theme): Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

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