

# Nehemiah 9:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it yieldeth much increase unto the kings whom thou hast set over us because of our sins: also they have dominion over our bodies, and over our cattle, at their pleasure, and we are in great distress.

## Analysis

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**And it yieldeth much increase unto the kings whom thou hast set over us because of our sins: also they have dominion over our bodies, and over our cattle, at their pleasure, and we are in great distress.**

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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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**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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וַתִּבְּרָאָהּ הָ	מְרַבָּה הָ	לְמַלְכֵי יָם	אֲשֶׁר	נָתַתָּהּ
increase	And it yieldeth much	unto the kings	H834	whom thou hast set
H8393	H7235	H4428		H5414
עַל יָנוּ	בְּחַטָּאוֹתֵינוּ	וְעַל	גַּם וְיִתִּינוּ	מֶשֶׁלַּיִם
H5921	over us because of our sins	H5921	over our bodies	also they have dominion
	H2403		H1472	H4910
וּבְרֵהֶמָּה נוּ	כְּרָצוֹן מֵ	וּבְצָרָה הָ	גְּדוֹלָה הָ	אֲנַחְנוּ:
and over our cattle	at their pleasure	distress	and we are in great	H587
H929	H7522	H6869	H1419	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 28:33** (Parallel theme): The fruit of thy land, and all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up; and thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed alway:

**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.

**Ezra 7:24** (Sin): Also we certify you, that touching any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, Nethinims, or ministers of this house of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them.

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