

Nehemiah 9:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And because of all this we make a sure covenant, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests, seal unto it.

Analysis

And because of all this we make a sure covenant, and write it; and our princes, Levites, and priests, seal unto 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

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 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

אָמֵן הִ	כִּרְתַּת יְמִ	זֶה אַתָּה וְבָכָל	אֲנָה חָנוּ זֶה אַתָּה וְבָכָל	H3605 H2063 H587	And because of all this we make	H3772	a sure	H548
covenant and write	וְכִתְבֵּ יְמִ	וְעַל	כִּרְתַּת יְמִ	שְׁרֵי יְנָה	לְיִנְהָ	כְּהַנִּינָה	Levites and priests	H3789 H5921 H2856 H8269 H3881 H3548

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 10:1 (Parallel theme): Now those that sealed were, Nehemiah, the Tirshatha, the son of Hachaliah, and Zidkijah,

Nehemiah 10:29 (Parallel theme): They clave to their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse, and into an oath, to walk in God's law, which was given by

Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, and his judgments and his statutes;

2 Chronicles 34:31 (Covenant): And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book.

Ezra 10:3 (Covenant): Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.

2 Kings 23:3 (Covenant): And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

2 Chronicles 29:10 (Covenant): Now it is in mine heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, that his fierce wrath may turn away from us.

2 Chronicles 23:16 (Covenant): And Jehoiada made a covenant between him, and between all the people, and between the king, that they should be the LORD'S people.