

Nehemiah 9:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, Stand up and bless the LORD your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

Analysis

Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, Stand up and bless the LORD your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וַיֹּאמֶר ו	הַלְוִיִּם	יֵשׁוּעַ	וְקַדְמִיֵּאל	בְּנֵי י	הַשִּׁבְנִי ה	שִׁרְבִּי ה
said	Then the Levites	Jeshua	and Kadmiel	Bani	Hashabniah	Sherebiah
H559	H3881	H3442	H6934	H1137	H2813	H8274
הוֹדִיָּה	שִׁבְנִי ה	פֶּתַחִי ה	ק וּמוֹ	וַיְבָרְכוּ	אֶת	יְהוָה ה
Hodijah	Shebaniah	and Pethahiah	Stand up	and bless	H853	the LORD
H1941	H7645	H6611	H6965	H1288		H3068
כְּבוֹדְךָ	שִׁם	וַיְבָרְכוּ	הָעוֹלָם	עַד	הָעוֹלָם	מִן אֱלֹהֶיךָ
be thy glorious	name	and bless	and ever	and ever	and	your God
H3519	H8034	H1288	H5769	H5704	H5769	H4480
						H430
וַתְּהַלֵּל:	בְּרַכָּה ה	כָּל	עַל	וּמְרוֹמֶיךָ		
and praise	above all blessing			which is exalted		
H8416	H1293	H3605	H5921	H7311		

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 4:6 (Glory): For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:3 (Resurrection): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Chronicles 29:13 (Glory): Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

Matthew 11:25 (References Lord): At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

Ezra 3:11 (Resurrection): And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward

Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

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