

Nehemiah 9:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And foundest his heart faithful before thee, and madest a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites, and the Girgashites, to give it, I say, to his seed, and hast performed thy words; for thou art righteous:

Analysis

And foundest his heart faithful before thee, and madest a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites, and the Girgashites, to give it, I say, to his seed, and hast performed thy words; for thou art righteous:

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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

וּמָצָא אֶת	אֶת	לִבּוֹ	נֶאֱמָן	לִפְנֵי	וְכָר וְת	עַמּוֹ
And foundest	H853	his heart	faithful	before	thee and madest	H5973
H4672		H3824	H539	H6440	H3772	
הַבְּרִית	לָתֵת	אֶת	אֶרֶץ	הַכְּנַעֲנִים	הַחִתִּים	הָאֱמֹרִיתִים
a covenant	to give	H853	the land	of the Canaanites	the Hittites	the Amorites
H1285	H5414		H776	H3669	H2850	H567
וְהַפְּרִזִּים	וְהַיְבוּסִים	וְהַגִּרְגָּשִׁים	לָתֵת	לְזֶרַע		
and the Perizzites	and the Jebusites	and the Girgashites	to give	it I say to his seed		
H6522	H2983	H1622	H5414	H2233		
וְתִקֵּם	אֶת	דְּבָרֶיךָ	כִּי	צַדִּיק	אֱתָהּ:	
and hast performed	H853	thy words	H3588	for thou art righteous	H859	
H6965		H1697		H6662		

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 6:18 (Parallel theme): That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

Genesis 15:6 (Faith): And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Joshua 23:14 (Parallel theme): And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.

Genesis 12:7 (Parallel theme): And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.