

Daniel 9:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth.

Analysis

Daniel acknowledges that suffering fulfilled prophecy yet produced insufficient repentance: 'As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth.' The judgment was exactly as Moses warned, yet it didn't automatically produce repentance—'yet made we not our prayer.' This is sobering: even severe discipline doesn't guarantee heart change. The proper response ('turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth') hadn't been Israel's default reaction. Daniel's current prayer partly remedies this, but he acknowledges decades of exile passed without appropriate corporate repentance. This teaches that God's discipline opens opportunity for repentance but doesn't coerce it; humans can remain hard even under judgment. Genuine repentance requires both divine initiative and human response.

Historical Context

The exile lasted approximately 70 years (586-516 BC). During this period, various responses emerged: some Jews assimilated into Babylonian culture; some maintained identity but didn't deeply repent; a remnant (like Daniel, Ezekiel, and those who eventually returned) responded with genuine repentance and renewed commitment. Daniel's confession likely represents this faithful remnant's perspective: recognizing that as a whole, Israel hadn't properly responded to judgment with deep repentance. The historical lesson is stark: divine discipline,

however severe, doesn't automatically produce spiritual renewal. God's people can waste suffering rather than learning from it. The exile's goal was restoration of relationship with God; achieving that required not just enduring punishment but genuinely turning from sin.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Why doesn't even severe divine discipline automatically produce repentance?
2. What's the difference between enduring suffering and learning from it?
3. How can we examine whether we're properly responding to God's discipline in our lives?

Interlinear Text

כָּאֲשֶׁר	כָּתוּב	בְּתוֹךְ	מֹשֶׁה	אֵת	כָּל	הַרָעָה
H834	As it is written	in the law	of Moses	H853	H3605	all this evil
	H3789	H8451	H4872			H7451
הִזְאת	בָּאָה	עַל יְנוּ	וְלֹא	חֵל יְנוּ		אֵת
H2063	is come	H5921	H3808	upon us yet made we not our prayer		H854
	H935			H2470		
פְּנֵי	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵינוּ	לְשׁוּב	מֵעֲוֹנוֹנוּ		
before	the LORD	our God	that we might turn	from our iniquities		
H6440	H3068	H430	H7725	H5771		
וְלִהְיוֹת	בְּאֵמֶתְךָ:					
and understand	thy truth					
H7919	H571					

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 9:11 (Word): Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him.

Isaiah 9:13 (References Lord): For the people turneth not unto him that smiteth them, neither do they seek the LORD of hosts.

Jeremiah 2:30 (Word): In vain have I smitten your children; they received no correction: your own sword hath devoured your prophets, like a destroying lion.

Psalms 119:27 (Parallel theme): Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.

Job 36:13 (Parallel theme): But the hypocrites in heart heap up wrath: they cry not when he bindeth them.

Jeremiah 31:18 (References God): I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the LORD my God.

Jeremiah 5:3 (Creation): O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return.

Hosea 7:10 (References God): And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him for all this.

Isaiah 42:9 (Parallel theme): Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

Isaiah 64:7 (Parallel theme): And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.