

Daniel 9:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.

Analysis

Daniel continues: "O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee." The contrast is stark—"righteousness belongeth unto thee" but "unto us confusion of faces." God's righteousness remains unstained; Israel's shame is complete and visible ("confusion of faces" = disgrace, embarrassment).

The phrase "as at this day" anchors the confession in present reality—exile isn't theoretical but current disgrace witnessed by all. The comprehensive scope—"men of Judah...Jerusalem...all Israel...near...far off"—indicates the exile scattered the nation widely, fulfilling covenant curses (Deuteronomy 28:64). Yet even in acknowledging dispersion, Daniel maintains hope by recognizing God's sovereign hand: "whither thou hast driven them." Though judgment resulted from sin, God sovereignly controlled even exile's details.

The final phrase—"because of their trespass that they have trespassed against

thee"—uses emphatic Hebrew construction (literally "in their unfaithfulness which they acted unfaithfully") stressing willful, knowing rebellion. This acknowledgment of deserved judgment provides proper foundation for seeking mercy—not denying guilt but confessing it fully while appealing to divine grace. Christ bore our "confusion of faces" (shame) on the cross, suffering public disgrace to restore our honor (Hebrews 12:2).

Historical Context

By Daniel's time (538 BC), Jews were scattered throughout the Babylonian and emerging Persian Empires from Egypt to Persia. The "near and far off" described those who returned to Judah versus those remaining in dispersion. This scattered condition fulfilled Deuteronomy's covenant curses for persistent disobedience (Deuteronomy 28:64-68), demonstrating God's faithfulness to His word—both blessings and curses.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the contrast between God's righteousness and our shame establish proper foundation for seeking divine mercy?
2. What does recognizing God's sovereign hand even in judgment ("whither thou hast driven them") teach about divine control over all circumstances?
3. How does Christ bearing our shame on the cross provide the ultimate answer to humanity's "confusion of faces"?

Interlinear Text

בְּ שְׁתִּים	לֹבֶן	אָדָן	הַצְדָּקָה	נוֹעַל	לְבָנָן
belongeth unto us	confusion	but unto	thee	unto	but unto
O Lord	righteousness	H0	H1322	H6666	H0
H136	H2088	H376	H3063	H3117	H3605
and to the inhabitants	of Judah	of men	to the	as at this day	of faces
H3427	H3063	H376	H2088	H3117	H6440
and that are far off	that are near	immediate	near	to this day	of faces
H7350	H7138	H5080	H3478	H3605	H3389
through all the countries	all Israel	unto	and	Jerusalem	of
H776	H3478	H834	H834	H3605	H3389
whither thou hast driven	driven	thou	hast	driven	driven
H8033	H5080	H834	H834	H8033	H8033
because of their trespass	trespass	their	because	of their	because
H4604	H4603	H4604	H4604	H4603	H4604

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 44:15 (Parallel theme): My confusion is continually before me, and the shame of my face hath covered me,

Jeremiah 3:25 (References Lord): We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God.

Deuteronomy 4:27 (References Lord): And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you.

Daniel 9:8 (References Lord): O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee.

Daniel 9:14 (Righteousness): Therefore hath the LORD watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the LORD our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice.

Romans 6:21 (Parallel theme): What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

Amos 9:9 (References Israel): For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.

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