

# 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

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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

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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

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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לְבָ	אֲדֹנָי	הַצְדִּיקָה	וְלִנּוּ	בְּשֵׁת	
H0	O Lord	righteousness	H0	belongeth unto thee but unto us confusion	
	H136	H6666		H1322	
הַפָּנִים	כִּי וּמִ	הַיּוֹם	לְאִישׁ	יְהוּדָה	וּלְיֹשְׁבֵי י
of faces	as at this day	H2088	to the men	of Judah	and to the inhabitants
H6440	H3117		H376	H3063	H3427
יְרוּשָׁלַם	וְלִכָּל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	הַקְּרֹבִים	וְהַרְחֹקִים	בְּכָל
of Jerusalem	H3605	and unto all Israel	that are near	and that are far off	H3605
H3389		H3478	H7138	H7350	
הָאֲרָצוֹת	אֶשֶׁר	הִדְחַתְתָּ	שָׁמָּה		
through all the countries	H834	whither thou hast driven	H8033		
H776		H5080			
בְּמַעַלְתָּ	אֶשֶׁר	מַעַלְתֶּם	בְּרַחֲמֵי		
them because of their trespass	H834	that they have trespassed	H0		
H4604		H4603			

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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