

Ezra 9:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this;

Analysis

Ezra acknowledges deserved judgment: 'And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this.' This profound theology recognizes that exile, though severe, was actually restrained judgment. Total annihilation would be just; survival is mercy. The word 'deliverance' (peleytah, remnant/escaped portion) emphasizes that existence itself is undeserved grace. This prevents both presumption and despair.

Historical Context

The exile (586-538 BC) was devastating but not total—some survived, lineages continued, Scriptures preserved. Other ancient peoples conquered and exiled typically ceased to exist (ten northern tribes). That Judah survived and returned testified to God's covenant faithfulness. The acknowledgment 'punished us less than our iniquities deserve' reflects mature understanding that any mercy is undeserved. This theology later influenced Paul: 'If we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself' (2 Timothy 2:13).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does acknowledging that God's punishment is 'less than our iniquities deserve' prevent both presumption and despair?
2. What does the concept of 'remnant' or 'deliverance' teach about grace as God's disposition toward the undeserving?

Interlinear Text

And after	H3605	all that is come	H935	בְּכָל יְמֵינוּ	בְּמַעַשׁ יְמֵינוּ	בְּרַעַם יְמֵינוּ	בְּמַעַשׁ יְמֵינוּ	בְּמַעַשׁ יְמֵינוּ	upon us for our evil	H7451
H310			H310						H310	
trespass	H819	and for our great	H1419	בְּגָדָל הָנִי	בְּגָדָל הָנִי	אָתָה יְמֵינוּ	אָתָה יְמֵינוּ	אָתָה יְמֵינוּ	seeing that thou our God	H430
hast punished	H2820	us less	H4295	לִמְדָה	לִמְדָה	לִמְדָה	לִמְדָה	לִמְדָה	deserve and hast given	H0
us such deliverance	H6413		H2063	כִּזְאתָה	כִּזְאתָה					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 103:10 (Parallel theme): He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

Lamentations 3:22 (Parallel theme): It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

Job 11:6 (References God): And that he would shew thee the secrets of wisdom, that they are double to that which is! Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth.

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