

# 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

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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

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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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

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

## Study Questions

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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

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וְאַחֲרַי And after H310	כָּל H3605	הַבָּ א all that is come H935	עַל יְנוּ H5921	בְּמַעֲשֵׂי יְנוּ deeds H4639	הָרַע יִם upon us for our evil H7451
וּבִאַשְׁמֵת נֹו trespass H819	הַגְּדֹלָה and for our great H1419	כִּי יִן H3588	אֶת הַ H859	אֵלֶּה יְנוּ seeing that thou our God H430	
חָשׁ כָּתָה hast punished H2820	לִמָּ טָה us less H4295	מִמַּעֲוֵי נֹו than our iniquities H5771	וְנָתַתָּה deserve and hast given H5414	לִנֹו H0	
פְּלִיטָה us such deliverance H6413	כְּזֹאת: H2063				

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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