

Ezra 9:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day.

Analysis

Ezra's prayer continues with historical confession: 'Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day.' This acknowledges multi-generational sin—current violations aren't isolated failures but ongoing patterns. The phrase 'for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands' interprets exile theologically. God used pagan rulers to judge covenant violation. The list of punishments—"to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face"—recounts covenant curses (Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28).

Historical Context

The confession 'since the days of our fathers' acknowledges that pre-exilic Israel persistently violated covenant, leading to exile (586 BC). Ezra doesn't minimize past sins or claim the returnees are better. The phrase 'confusion of face' means shame and disgrace. The acknowledgment that 'our kings and our priests' led in sin shows that leaders bear special responsibility. Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and other prophets had warned repeatedly that persistent sin would bring exile. Now, barely eighty years after return, similar sins recurred.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does confessing multi-generational sin demonstrate understanding that current failures often repeat historical patterns?
2. What does acknowledging that leaders 'have been chief in this trespass' (v. 2) teach about greater accountability for those in authority?

Interlinear Text

גָּדוֹל הָבָשָׂת מִן אֲבֹתֵינוּ כִּי וּמָמָנוּ
Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great
H3117 H1 H587 H819 H1419

עַתָּה וְעַזְנָתֵינוּ כִּי הָבָשָׂת מִן
Since the days and for our iniquities been delivered
H5704 H3117 H2088 H5771 H5414 H587

מִלְכֵינוּ כִּי דָלֵנוּ כִּי דָלֵנוּ מִלְכֵינוּ
have we our kings and our priests into the hand have we our kings of the lands
H4428 H3548 H3027 H4428 H776

כִּי וּמָמָנוּ פָּנִים כִּי רַבְבָּשָׂת וְבָבָשָׂת
to the sword to captivity and to a spoil and to confusion of face Since the days
H2719 H7628 H961 H1322 H6440 H3117

פָּנִים
H2088

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 29:6 (Parallel theme): For our fathers have trespassed, and done that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD our God, and have forsaken him, and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the LORD, and turned their backs.

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