

# Ezra 9:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.

## Analysis

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Ezra acknowledges recent mercy: 'And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place.' The phrase 'little space' (brief time) contrasts seventy years exile with recent restoration. The word 'grace' (techinnah) emphasizes unmerited favor. The 'remnant' theology acknowledges that only a portion returned and only divine mercy preserved them. The metaphor 'nail in his holy place' suggests something secure and permanent—God gave them place in Jerusalem despite unworthiness.

## Historical Context

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The 'little space' refers to approximately eighty years from Cyrus's decree (538 BC) to Ezra's arrival (458 BC). In this brief period, God restored temple, city, and community. The 'remnant' theology is central to biblical soteriology—God preserves a believing minority through judgment. The 'nail in his holy place' metaphor appears in Isaiah 22:23—a secure peg driven into a wall. God established the community firmly in Jerusalem despite their previous faithlessness and current unworthiness.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does 'remnant' theology challenge triumphalism while preserving hope in God's faithfulness?
2. What does the metaphor of 'nail in his holy place' teach about God's commitment to establish His people despite their failures?

## Interlinear Text

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מֵאָתָן תְּחִנֵּה רָגְנָע הַבִּית הַמִּעֵד וְעַתָּה הַ

H6258 And now for a little space H1961 grace H853

H4592

H7281

H8467

לֹא יָנָה אֱלֹהִים יְהוָה הַ

hath been shewed from the LORD our God to leave H0

H3068

H430

H7604

קָדוֹשׁ וּבָמָקָם יְתִדְעֵה פְּלִיטָה

us a remnant to escape and give place in his holy

H6413

H5414

H4725

H6944

מִעֵד וְעַתָּה מְחִינֵה וְלֹתְתֵה כָּאֱלֹהִים יְנָה עֵינֵים יְנָה

may lighten our eyes our God and give reviving And now for a little

H215

H5869

H430

H5414

H4241

H4592

בְּעֵד תָּנוּן

in our bondage

H5659

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 13:3** (Light): Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;

**Hosea 6:2** (Parallel theme): After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

**Isaiah 57:15** (Holy): For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

**Psalms 85:6** (Parallel theme): Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?

**Habakkuk 3:2** (Grace): O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.

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