

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

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

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

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

וְעַתָּה ה	מְעַט	רֵגַע	הַיְתָּה ה	תַּחֲנוּן ה	מֵאֵתָּה
H6258	And now for a little H4592	space H7281	H1961	grace H8467	H853
יְהוָה ה	לְהֵשָׁאֵר יְר	אֱלֹהֵינוּ	לְנוּ		
hath been shewed from the LORD H3068	our God H430	to leave H7604	H0		
פְּלִיטָה ה	וְלִתְּנוּ	לְנוּ	יְתֵד	בְּמָקוֹם	קֹדֶשׁ וְ
us a remnant to escape H6413	and give H5414	H0	us a nail H3489	place H4725	in his holy H6944
לְהֵאֵר יְר	עֵינֵינוּ	אֱלֹהֵינוּ	וְלִתְּנוּ	מַחְיֵה ה	מְעַט
may lighten H215	our eyes H5869	our God H430	and give H5414	reviving H4241	And now for a little H4592
בְּעַבְדָּתָנוּ:					
in our bondage H5659					

Additional Cross-References

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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