

Confusion of Faces.

Mike 4.5.2020

Jeremiah 7, Daniel 9, Hebrews 12.

Jeremiah 7:18 The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.

Jeremiah 7:19 Do they provoke me to anger? saith the LORD: do they not provoke themselves to the **confusion of their own faces**?

Jeremiah was born in the mid 7th century he laboured for more than 40 years, proclaiming a message of doom to the stiff-necked people of Judah. There is no doubt as to whom Jeremiah is speaking, four time in Jeremiah 7 alone, he refers to the people as the house which is 'called by my name', clear reference to the people of Shem, the descendants of Noah, from which Judah was descended.

The chronology of Jeremiah's book is unclear, but through his prophecies and signs he clearly declared that surrender to God's will is the only way to escape calamity. He prophesied that Israel would go into captivity for 70 years, but the false prophet changed the period of the prophecy and broke the yoke of wood, causing the people to believe a lie. The penalty for this was severe, the false prophet, Hananiah, died and the people were given yokes of iron and hard labour in Babylon.

Over half a century later, Daniel is now living in the reign of Darius the Mede and has been reading the scrolls of Jeremiah with a view to understand the meaning of Jeremiah's prophecy, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

I think it is obvious from the following few verses that Daniel has read the scroll that we now read as Jeremiah 7, as he repeats the quote about 'confusion of faces', the reference here is that Israel has not fully learnt the lessons of the captivity and are still looking in all the wrong places.

Daniel 9:7 O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us **confusion of faces**, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.

Daniel 9:8 O Lord, to us belongeth **confusion of face**, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee.

Daniel 9:9 To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses,
though we have rebelled against him;

Where is our focus at this time? Have we steadfastly put our hand to the plough or are we looking back from where we came like Lot's wife did?

As we emerge from our lockdown, from the wilderness that has been our home for five or six weeks, will we be satisfied with the manna in the wilderness or do we really desire the flesh pots of Egypt, the coffee, the takeaways, let us be careful not to break the yoke of wood and introduce a greater penalty.

As believers let us not have 'confusion of face' forgetting who we are, Who we serve, and Who we will all answer to when He returns. Our focus at this time must be outward, a focal point is in the distance and the author of Hebrews tells us to look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, the one who died for us, the One who paid the Mohar or the Bride price, that redeemed His people.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith;
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,
despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the
throne of God.