

## Dan. 9:7-9 “What Belongs to Whom”

**For the Children:** Have you ever been caught out in a lie? When you are found out, it can make you feel bad about yourself; it can make you feel embarrassed. But we do not always feel how bad our sins are. Sometimes, we might even feel pleased with ourselves – especially if we don't get caught. There is something even more important than how we feel about our sins: how the Lord regards them. He hates them. He warns that if we do not repent, He will punish us for them. The Lord gives us this warning because He is full of love and compassion for us. He wants us to repent, so He can show mercy to us and forgive us our sins for Jesus' sake. **Questions:** Are God's children sinners too? What are the 3 things that are said to “belong” to God? Why is it important that we know this?

---

### **Introduction:**

#### **First Point: What Belongs to Israel**

- 1) Open Shame: What belongs to Israel is open/public shame. The word does not mean the feeling of shame or embarrassment; it means the state of being in disgrace.
- 2) Israel's Total Depravity: This shame applied to all Israel, both North and South; to all levels of society, from kings and princes to fathers. All had been unfaithful to God, sinned and rebelled against Him. The evidence was there at that time – “as it is this day” – the destruction of the Northern Kingdom and the Exile of the South.
- 3) Our Depravity: Even as Christians, we remain sinners – due to our old nature. See 1 Jn. 1:9-10. We, too, would be in disgrace if our sins were not covered by the work of the Lord Jesus. That should make us feel even more ashamed that we keep sinning in the face of God's mercy. The Lord's Supper is for sinners who realize that, not for those who think they good enough in themselves.

#### **Second Point: What Belongs to God**

- 1) Perfect Righteousness: In contrast to Israel's shame, righteousness belongs to God – He “owns” it, it characterizes Him. This means His judgements against Israel and against sinners today are all righteous.
- 2) Deep Love and Compassion: Compassion also belongs to God. The word means a deep love and mercy for the helpless. It implies a strong bond between God and those on whom He has compassion. Hence, the comparison with the love of a mother or father for their children (Is. 49:15; Ps. 103:13). Compassion also implies grace – undeserved favour to those who are in disgrace. See Rom. 5:10.
- 3) Forgiveness of Sins: This particular word for forgiveness is only ever used of God. See Ex. 34:7. Because ultimate forgiveness of sins comes only from God, Jesus willingness to forgive sinners proved His divinity (Lk. 5:20-24). The Lord's Supper is for those who accept this answer to our shame: the righteousness, compassion and forgiveness that belong to God.

### **Conclusion:**

