

The Book of Ezra

Study #18

(Ezra 10:9-44)

A National Repentance!

I. THE WORDS OF THE PREACHER (9-11)

A. THE CONGREGATION (9)

1. REVERENCE (Heb. 10:31)
2. RAIN (Gen. 7:9-12, 9:12-16)

B. THE CONDEMNATION (10)

C. THE COMMANDS (11)

1. CONFESSION (11A; 1 Jn. 1:9)
2. CLEANSING (11B)

II. THE WILLINGNESS OF THE PEOPLE (12-15)

A. THE COMPLIANCE (12; 1 Sam. 15:22)

B. THE CONSIDERATION (13-15)

1. THE REASON (13)
2. THE RECOMMENDATION (14-15)
 - a. OFFERED (14)
 - b. OPPOSED (15; 2 Tim. 3:12)

III. THE WORK OF THE PATRIARCHS (16-44)

A. THE LEADERSHIP (16-17)

1. THEIR TECHNIQUE (16A)
2. THEIR TIMING (16B-17)
 - a. THE PROMPTNESS (16B)
 - b. THE PERSISTENCE (17, Col. 3:23)

B. THE LIST (18-44)

1. THE PRIESTS (18-24)
2. THE PEOPLE (25-44)
 - * A FINAL NOTE (Prov. 22:1)

CONCLUSION:

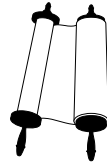
Restoring the Place of God!

Restoring the People of God!

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street (vs. 9) - Lit., the courtyard.

employed (vs. 15) The literal Hebrew is, "They stood concerning this matter." This could mean to stand in favor of, or to stand up against. Since all of the exiles have agreed to this proposal, the context would seem to demand that these men stood in opposition. The 2 men that follow, backed these 2 men up. Baptist commentators have for centuries taken this view. (Cf., John Gill, 1700's) LKW **chief of the fathers** (vs. 16) Lit., "Heads of the families."



ENDING THE MIXED MARRIAGES

Even before Israel had entered into the land, they had been warned not to intermarry with the inhabitants (Exodus 34:11-16; Deut. 7:1-5). Such intermarriage would inevitably result in idolatry. Ultimately, this was one of the factors that led to God's judgment and the Babylonian captivity.

What did Ezra do with these wives? The word translated "to send away" or "to cause to go out" in Ezra 10:3 is not the usual word for divorce. Nevertheless, that is what appears to have happened. Even more surprising, their solution is said to agree with the law!

Divorce was permitted under certain circumstances in Deut. 24:1-4. Could it be that Ezra unlocked the meaning of that mysterious phrase "for something unseemly, shameful" or, as the NIV translates it, "he finds something indecent about her"? This could not refer to adultery, as the law provided the death penalty in that case (Deut. 22:22). Thus it had to be something else that brought shame on God's people. What could bring greater shame than the breaking of the covenant relationship and the ultimate judgment of God on all the people? Perhaps Ezra had this passage in mind when he provided for the divorce of these unbelieving wives. —*Hard Sayings of the Bible*

EZRA: OUTLINE

- I. Rebuilding the Place of God (Chapters 1-6)
(The Ministry of Zerubbabel)
 - A. The Return (Chapters 1-2)
 - B. The Rebuilding (Chapters 3-6)
- II. Reviving the People of God (Chapters 7-10)
(The Ministry of Ezra)
 - A. The Trip (Chapters 7-8)
 - B. The Trouble (Chapters 9-10)
 1. The Discovery (Ch. 9)
 - a. The Report of the Leaders (9:1,2)
 - b. The Reaction of the Leader (9:3-15)
 - 1) His Penitence (9:3,4)
 - 2) His Prayer (9:5-15)
 2. The Decisions (Chapter 10)
 - a. The Confession (10:1-4)
 - b. The Consecration (10:5-6)
 - c. The Convocation (10:7-17)
 - d. The Cleansing (10:18-44)