

**The Book of Ezra**  
**Study #15**  
**(Ezra 9:1-5)**  
**Response to Sin**  
**(Part I: The Iniquity of the People)**

**I. The Report to Ezra (1-2; Micah 6:6-8)**

**A. The Violators (1B, 2C)**

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**B. The Violations (1C,1E, 2)**

**1. Wrong Associations**

**a. The Mingling**

**(1C,1E, 2B; Gen. 3:14-15; 17:7;**

**Ps. 106:34,35)**

**b. The Marriages**

**(2A; Num. 25:6-8; Deut. 7:3-4;**

**Neh. 13:23-25)**

**2. Wrong Actions (1D; Jer. 19:5)**

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**II. The Response of Ezra (3-5)**

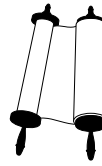
**A. His Despair (3; Is. 22:12)**

**B. His Delegation (4; Is. 66:1-2,5)**

**C. His Determination (5; 2 Chron. 7:14)**

**CONCLUSION:**

Are you a ship in the water, or is there water in your ship.



**Mixed Marriage**

**9:1-2** Since the time of the judges, Israelite men had married pagan women and then adopted their religious practices (Judges 3:5-7). Even Israel's great King Solomon was guilty of this sin (1 Kings 11:1-8). Although this practice was forbidden in God's law (Exodus 34:11-16; Deut. 7:1-4), it happened in Ezra's day, and again only a generation after him (Neh. 13:23-27). Opposition to mixed marriage was not racial prejudice because Jews and non-Jews of this area were of the same Semitic background. The reasons were strictly spiritual. A person who married a pagan was inclined to adopt that person's pagan beliefs and practices. If the Israelites were insensitive enough to disobey God in something as important as marriage, they wouldn't be strong enough to stand firm against their spouses' idolatry. Until the Israelites finally stopped this practice, idolatry remained a constant problem.

**9:2** Some Israelites had married pagan spouses and lost track of God's purpose for them. The New Testament says that believers should not "be yoked together with" unbelievers (2 Cor. 6:14). Such marriages cannot have unity in the most important issue in life—commitment and obedience to God. Because marriage involves two people becoming one, faith may become an issue, and one spouse may have to compromise beliefs for the sake of unity. Many people discount this problem only to regret it later. Don't allow emotion or passion to blind you to the ultimate importance of marrying someone with whom you can be united spiritually. (*Life Application 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)
    - 1. The Restoration of Worship (3:1-7)
    - 2. The Rebuilding of the Temple (3:8-6:22)
- II. Reviving the People of God (Chapters 7-10)  
 (The Ministry of Ezra)
  - A. The Trip (Chapters 7-8)
    - 1. Ezra's Return - Preparations (Ch. 7)
    - 2. Ezra's Return - People (8:1-20)
    - 3. Ezra's Request - Protection (8:21-23)
    - 4. Ezra's Responsibility - Presents (8:24-30)
    - 5. Ezra's Return - Providence (8:31-36)
  - 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)

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**astounded** (vss. 3,4). Heb., to be devastated, to be stupefied.