

The Book of Ezra

Study #16

(Ezra 9:6-15)

(Response to Sin Part II: The Intercession of the Priest)

I. The Guilt of the People (6-7; 10-15)

A. Their Past Failures (6-7)

1. The Shame

(6A; Gen. 3:10; Pr. 13:18; Ps. 83:16)

2. The Sins (6B-7)

3. The Sufferings (7B)

B. Our Present Failures (10-15)

1. The Defiance of the Prohibitions (10-12)

a. Ignoring the Word (10)

1) Solomon (Pr. 28:7,9)

2) Jeremiah (6:10,19)

3) Christ (Jn. 15:10)

b. Ignoring the Witness (11a; Lk. 20)

c. Ignoring the Warnings (1b1-12)

1) The Place Described (11b)

2) The Precept Decreed (12)

3) The Promises Dependent (12b; 1 Jn. 3:21-22)

2. The Danger of Presumption (11-15)

a. Remember the Vindication of God (13-14; Gal. 6:7-8; Rom. 2:1-13)

b. Remember the Vision of God (15; Heb. 4:13; Pr. 5:21; 15:3; Jer. 23:24; 1 Cor. 4:5)

II. The Goodness of God (8-9)

A. The Pictures of God's Goodness (8)

1. The Little Space (Rev. 2:21; James 4:13-15)

2. The Little Remnant (1 Kings 11:29-33)

3. The Little Nail

4. The Little Reviving

B. The Proof of God's Goodness (9; Lament. 3:22-23)

CONCLUSION:

What Ezra Recognized in His Prayer:

(1) Sin is serious (Ezra 9:6);

(2) No one sins without affecting others (Ezra 9:7);

(3) He was not sinless. (Ezra 9:10ff);

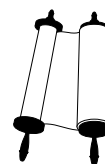
(4) God's mercy had spared the nation. (Ezra 9:8-9, 15).

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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blush (v. 6) Lit., confounded, confused and hurt.



The Collective Aspect of Sin

"We have sinned" (Ezra 9:5-7). Like both Nehemiah (Neh.1:4-10) and Daniel (Dan. 9), Ezra identified himself with the people and their sins and spoke to God about "our iniquities" and not "their iniquities." Israel was one covenant nation before God, and the sins of one person affected all the people. For example, when Achan disobeyed God at Jericho, God said to Joshua, "Israel has sinned" (Josh. 7:11). The same principle applies to the local church (1 Cor. 5:6-8). Unless sin is dealt with, the whole assembly becomes defiled. (Wiersbe)