

A Renewed Remnant

Lesson 9

Ezra Deals With Sin Among The Remnant (Ezra 9-10)

Introduction

With Ezra now serving as the “spiritual leader” in Jerusalem, the remnant begins to find their way back to faithful standing before God. His “preparatory efforts” (7:10) did not take long to bear fruit. Within only 5 months of arriving in Jerusalem (7:9; 10:9), some of the leaders approached Ezra to complain about violations of the Mosaic Law re: intermarriage with pagan peoples. The last 2 chapters of this book detail how Ezra dealt with the problem.

- 1) What was reported to Ezra? (9:1-2a) What made this especially troublesome? (9:2b; 10:18) What is one lesson to be emphasized here? (cp. Lk. 12:48b)

- 2) What do you think is meant by “holy race” or “holy seed?” (9:2a; cp. Ex. 19:5b-6; Deut. 7:6)

- 3) How did Ezra react? (9:3) How did his actions affect others? (9:4)

- 4) What is recorded in 9:5-15? What passage does Ezra cite to indicate what the remnant had done was a violation of the Mosaic Law? (9:12) What was the concern God had when He gave this prohibition? (Deut. 7:4)

- 5) Thought question: why would it be especially disappointing to see this sin now?

- 6) Write down some of Ezra’s expressions in this prayer that impress you the most.

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- 7) How effective was Ezra's prayer? (10:1; cp. 2 Cor. 7:9-11) How did Ezra receive personal encouragement from Shecaniah? (10:2-4)

- 8) What did Ezra do first? (10:5) What did he do next? (10:6-8)

- 9) Describe the assembly when Ezra addressed this sin? (10:9-12)

- 10) Were there any problems that made necessary correction difficult to achieve? (10:13, 15, 44)

- 11) How long did it take to complete the investigations? (10:9, 16b-17) *Thought question:* how might these efforts instruct us re: our own present-day "investigations?"

- 12) How does this episode provide instruction re: genuine repentance?

- 13) How might this episode help guide elders & local churches in dealing with unfaithful marital situations they sometimes face?

- 14) Is there any danger to be stressed re: marriage, especially toward our young people?