Ezra 9

EZRA 9

22 Horsley Woodhouse Methodist Church

1 After these things had been done, the officials approached me
me and said, 'The people of Israel, the priests, and
the Levites have not separated themselves from the
peoples of the lands with their abominations, from
the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the
Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the
Egyptians, and the Amorites. 2 For they have taken
some of their daughters as wives for themselves
and for their sons. Thus the holy seed has mixed
itself with the peoples of the lands, and in this
faithlessness the officials and leaders have
led the way 3 When I heard this, I tore my
garment and my mantle, and pulled hair from my
head and beard, and sat appalled. 4 Then all
who trembled at the words of the God
of Israel, because of the faithlessness
of the returned exiles, gathered
around me while I sat appalled until
the evening sacrifice.

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Ezra's Prayer

5 At the evening sacrifice I got up from my fasting,
with my garments and my mantle torn, and fell on my
knees, spread out my hands to the LORD my God,
6 and said,
'O my God, I am too ashamed and embarrassed
to lift my face to you, my God, for our iniquities
have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt
has mounted up to the heavens. 7 From the
days of our ancestors to this day we have been
deep in guilt, and for our iniquities we, our kings
and our priests have been handed over to the kings
of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to
plundering, and to utter shame as is now the case.
8 But now for a brief moment favour has been shown by
the LORD our God, who has left us a remnant, and given
us a stake in his holy place, in order that he may
brighten our eyes and grant us a little sustenance in
our slavery. 9 For we are slaves; yet our God has
not forsaken us in our slavery, but has extended

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to us his steadfast love before the kings of Persia to give us new life, to set up the house of our God, to repair its ruins and to give us a wall in Judea and Jerusalem.

10 "And now, our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken your commandments
11 which you commanded by your servants the prophets, saying, 'The land that you are entering to possess is a land unclean with the pollutions of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations. They have filled it from end to end with their uncleanness. 12 Therefore do not give your daughters to their sons, neither take their daughters for your sons, and never seek their peace or prosperity, so that you may be strong and eat the good of the land and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever.' 13 After all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great guilt, seeing that you, our God, have punished us less than our iniquities deserved and have given us such a remnant as this, 14 shall we break your

commandments again and intermarry with the peoples who practise these abominations? Would you not be angry angry with us until you destroy us without remnant or survivor? 15 O Lord God of Israel, you are just, but we have escaped as a remnant, as is now the case. Here we are before you in our guilt, though no one can face you because of this.

Ezra

Chapter 10

Ezra 10

22 Bingham

1 While Ezra prayed and made
his confession, weeping and
throwing himself before the house
of God, a very great assembly
of men, women, and children
gathered to him out of Israel;
the people also wept bitterly.
2 Shecaniah, son of Jehiel, of
the descendants of Elam
addressed Ezra, saying, "We
have broken faith with our God
and have married foreign
women from the peoples of the
land, but even now there is
hope for Israel in spite of this.
3 So now let us make a covenant
with our God to send away all these
wives and their children, according
to the counsel of my lord and of

those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law. 4 Take action, for it is your duty, and we are with you; be strong, and do it." 5 Then Ezra stood up and made the leading priests, the Levites, and all Israel swear that they would do as had been said. So they swore. 6 Then Ezra withdrew from before the house of God, and went to the chamber of Jehohanan son of Eliashib, where he spent the night. He did not eat bread or drink water, for he was mourning over the faithlessness of the exiles. They made a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the returned exiles that they should assemble at Jerusalem, 8 and that if any did not come within three days by order of the officials and the elders all their property should be forfeited, and they themselves banned from the congregation of the exiles.

9 Then all the people of Judah and Benjamin assembled at Jerusalem within the three days; it was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month. All the people

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sat in the open square before the house of God, trembling because of this matter and because of the heavy rain.
10 Then Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, "You have trespassed and married foreign women, and so increased the guilt of Israel. 11 Now make confession to the Lord the God of your ancestors, and do his will; separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives." 12 Then all the assembly answered with a loud voice, 'It is so; we must do as you have said. 13 But the people are many and it is a time of heavy rain; we cannot stand in the open. Nor is this a task for one day or two, for many of us have transgressed in this matter. 14
Let our officials represent the whole assembly and let all in our towns who ~~have taken~~ have taken foreign wives come at appointed times, and with them the elders and judges of every town, until the fierce ~~wrath~~ wrath of God on this account is averted from us. 15 Only Jonathan son of Asahel and Jahzeiah son of Tikvah opposed this, and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levites supported them.

16 Then the returned exiles did so. Ezra the priest

selected men heads of families according to their families, each of them designated by name. On the first day of the tenth month they sat down to examine the matter. 17. By the first day of the first month they had come to the end of all the men who had married foreign women.

18. There were found of the descendants of the priests who had married foreign women, of the descendants of Jeshua son of Jozadak and his brothers: Maaseiah, Eliezer, Jarib, and Gedaliah. 19. They pledged themselves to send away their wives, and their guilt-offering was a ram of the flock for their guilt.

20. Of the descendants of Immer: Hanani and Zebadiah. 21 Of the descendants of Harim: Maaseiah, Elijah, Shemaiah, Jehiel and Uzziah. 22. Of the descendants of Pashhur: Elioenai, Maseiah, Ishmael, Nethanel, Jozabad and Elasah. 23 Of the Levites: Jozabad, Shimei, Kelaiah (that is, Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer. 24 Of the singers: Eliashib. Of the gatekeepers: Shallum, Telem, and Uri.

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25. And of Israel, of the descendants of Parosh: Ramiah, Issiah, Malchijah, Mizamer, Eleazar, Hashabiah, and Benaiah. 26 Of the descendants of Elam: Mattaniah, Zechariah, Jehiel, Abdi, Jeremoth, and Elijah. 27. Of the descendants of Zattu: Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, Jeremoth, Zabad and Aziza. 28. Of the descendants of Bebai: Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai. 29 Of the descendants of Bani: Meshullam, Malluch, Adaiah, Jashub, Sheal, and Jeremoth. 30 Of ~~the~~ the descendants of Pahath-moab: Adna, Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, Binnui, and Manasseh. 31 Of the descendants of Harim: Eliezer, Isshijah, Malchijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon, 32. Benjamin, Malluch, and Shemariah 33. Of the descendants of Hashum: Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, and Shimei. 34 Of the descendants of Bani: Maadai, Amram, Uel, 35 Benaiah, Bedeiah, Chelluhi, 36 Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib,

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37. Mattaniah, Mattenai and Jaasu. 38 Of the
descendants of Binnui; Shimei, 39 Shelemiah,
Nathan, Adaiah, 40 Machnadebai, Shashai,
Sharai, 41 Azarel, Shelemiah, Shemariah, 42 Shallum,
Amariah and Joseph. 43 Of the descendants of Nebo:
Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jaddai, Joel,
and Benaiah. 44 All these had married foreign
women, and they sent them away with their
children.

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