

EZRA : FAITH AND ACTION PREACHER

Printed Text: **Ezra 10:1 - 12**

Bible Background: Ezra 9 - 10

Devotional Reading: Ezekiel 18:25 - 32

LESSON AIM :

- CONTRAST the people's need for repentance with their joyful response to God's Word
- BELIEVE that God's truth is eternal
- GROW in determination to serve God in our community and beyond

INTRODUCTION : Although God had sent many prophets to speak for Him and to keep His people in line, Israel and Judah could not resist a life of disobedience coupled with a lack of repentance. They were warned time and again that God would not continue to tolerate disobedience; however, because they were God's chosen people, they somehow thought they would escape judgment. Ezra, the priest, led Judah's second exiled group's return to Jerusalem. He addressed the group when he saw signs that they were falling into the same path that their forefathers had fallen into. Some men in the group had married pagan women and had children who could potentially have been exposed to religions which were against God. Though recorded in the New Testament, God had demanded in the Old Testament, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers. . . 2 Corinthians 6:14

KEY VERSE: ¹⁰ *And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel.* ¹¹ *Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives.* Ezra 10:10-11 / KJV

LESSON :

- The Proposal Ezra 10:1 - 4
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- The Oath verses 5 - 6
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- The Proclamation

verses 7 – 8

- The Affirmation

verses 9 ñ 12

SUMMARY: Ezra convened a national assembly to address the issue of unlawful intermarriage. The proclamation was issued to every one who had returned in the first group under Zerubbabel and the second, under Ezra. Those who failed to appear would have their possessions confiscated. Then the person and his family would be ex-communicated from the community. Ezra had made a tough decision; however, his decision was based on God's law for God's people. God requires that His children make tough decisions. However, He is the One we live to honor.

QUESTIONS:

1. Where do you see God at work in your life calling you back to Him and rebuilding your faith?
2. How do Ezra's and Shechaniah's responses to hearing of the sin demonstrate their understanding of this reality?

Daily Bible Readings for
April 11, 2021

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DAY / DATE	SCRIPTURE	
Mon., Apr. 5 th	A Light to Jews and Gentiles	Acts 26:19 ñ 23
Tue., Apr. 6 th	Live the New Life in Christ	Ephesians 4:17 ñ 24
Wed., Apr. 7 th	Keep Land Faithful to Godly Practices	Leviticus 18:24 ñ 30
Thurs., Apr. 8 th	Ignoring God's Laws Lead to Judgment	Zechariah 7:8 ñ 14
Fri., Apr. 9 th	People Anxious to Hear the Law	Nehemiah 7:73 ñ 8:6
Sat., Apr. 10 th	People Respond Actively to the Law	Nehemiah 8:9 ñ 12
Sun., Apr. 11 th	Committed to a Life of Obedience	Ezra 10:1 - 12