

# Ezra – Chapter Nine

## “Confronted With Sin”

### Timeline

The Second Wave Returned in 458 (led by Ezra – chapters 7-10 of Ezra).

This was 147 years after the Babylonian Captivity began.

It was 80 years after the first wave of exiles returned.

It was 58 years after the rebuilding of the Temple was completed in 516.

### Review Chapter 8

- God placed in Ezra’s heart a desire to study the Word of God, obey it, and teach it in Israel.
  - Ezra led a 4-month journey back to the Promised Land with about 6– 8,000 other Jews.
  - The hand of God was upon him. God supplied people (priests & Levites), provisions, and protection.
  - Upon arrival, after resting for 3 days, they did 3 things:
    - They delivered the treasure and items intended for use in the Temple to the priests and Levites and made a thorough accounting of all of it.
    - They worshipped God with burnt offerings.
    - They delivered the instructions the King had sent to his officials throughout the region (this may have required significant travel and taken Ezra several months before he returned to Jerusalem).
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### The Abomination of the Sin 1-2

- 1 The chief men and leaders of the Jewish nation reported this serious spiritual departure to Ezra.
- 2 The issue was not interracial marriage. (David and Jesus both had lineage that included women of other races.) Marriage with unbelievers was the issue – they were marrying those who were not part of the faith – **2 Corinthians 6:14-18**.
  - God had warned His people before they ever entered the Promised Land the first time not to intermarry with its inhabitants – **Exodus 34:10-16; Deuteronomy 7:1-6**.
  - God punished His people with Assyrian and Babylonian captivity for this same offense, which led to their participation in the idolatry and abominations of the heathen nations. Here they were repeating the same offense (see **6:21**).
  - To make matters worse, many of their civic and religious leaders had participated in this departure and disobedience that plagued Israel throughout its history – **Nehemiah 13:23-29; Malachi 2:11**.

### The Reaction to the Sin 3-5

- 3 Ezra was “astonished” at the “faithlessness” of the people. His reaction is reminiscent of Paul’s reaction to the departure of the Galatians from the Gospel in Galatians 1:6.
- 4 All who feared God and “trembled” at His Word gathered around Ezra.
- 5 Ezra sat all day until evening and then fell on his knees to pray.

## The Confession of the Sin 6-15

### Ezra confessed these things about the sin of the nation:

- 6-7 It was sin of great shame.
- 8-9 It was sin against the grace of God.
- 10-12 It was sin against the Word of God.
- 13-14 It was sin against the mercy of God.
- 15 It was indefensible and inexcusable in the sight of God – **Isaiah 59:12-13**.

## Doctrinal Conclusions

### 1. Do we ever tremble at the words of our God?

**Isaiah 66:1-2** Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? **(2)** For all those *things* My hand has made, And all those *things* exist," Says the LORD. "But on this *one* will I look: On *him who is poor* and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.

**Psalms 119:161** Princes persecute me without a cause, But my heart stands in awe of Your word.

### 2. Regret is not the same as genuine, Godly repentance.

**2 Corinthians 7:9-11** Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. **(10)** For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. **(11)** For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, *what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication!* In all *things* you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

### 3. True confession of sin(s) is to pray like Ezra prayed – siding with God against the sin and looking at the sin in His terms.

**1 John 1:9** If we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

confess = (Gr.) homologeo – to assent  
homo = “the same”  
logeo = “to say”

### 4. We should not only say the same thing God says about our sin, and the sin of our nation, but we should react with astonishment and be appalled by it like Ezra.

**Proverbs 14:34** – Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.