

Ezra 9:4-5 (NLT)

Then all who trembled at the words of the God of Israel came and sat with me because of this outrage committed by the returned exiles. And I sat there utterly appalled until the time of the evening sacrifice. [5] At the time of the sacrifice, I stood up from where I had sat in mourning with my clothes torn. I fell to my knees and lifted my hands to the Lord my God.

Ezra 9:6-7 (NLT)

I prayed, “O my God, I am utterly ashamed; I blush to lift up my face to you. For our sins are piled higher than our heads, and our guilt has reached to the heavens. [7] From the days of our ancestors until now, we have been steeped in sin. That is why we and our kings and our priests have been at the mercy of the pagan kings of the land. We have been killed, captured, robbed, and disgraced, just as we are today.

Ezra 9:8-10 (NLT)

“But now we have been given a brief moment of grace, for the Lord our God has allowed a few of us to survive as a remnant. He has given us security in this holy place. Our God has brightened our eyes and granted us some relief from our slavery. [9] For we were slaves, but in his unfailing love our God did not abandon us in our slavery. Instead, he caused the kings of Persia to treat us favorably. He revived us so we could rebuild the Temple of our God and repair its ruins. He has given us a protective wall in Judah and Jerusalem. “And now, O our God, what can we say after all of this? For once again we have abandoned your commands!

Ezra 9:11-12 (NLT)

[11] Your servants the prophets warned us when they said, 'The land you are entering to possess is totally defiled by the detestable practices of the people living there. From one end to the other, the land is filled with corruption. [12] Don't let your daughters marry their sons! Don't take their daughters as wives for your sons. Don't ever promote the peace and prosperity of those nations. If you follow these instructions, you will be strong and will enjoy the good things the land produces, and you will leave this prosperity to your children forever.'

Ezra 9:13-15 (NLT)

“Now we are being punished because of our wickedness and our great guilt. But we have actually been punished far less than we deserve, for you, our God, have allowed some of us to survive as a remnant. [14] But even so, we are again breaking your commands and intermarrying with people who do these detestable things. Won’t your anger be enough to destroy us, so that even this little remnant no longer survives? [15] O Lord, God of Israel, you are just. We come before you in our guilt as nothing but an escaped remnant, though in such a condition none of us can stand in your presence.”

Dealing Decisively with Sin

Ezra 9:1 - 10:44



Psalms 119:9-10 (NIV)

**How can a young man keep his
way pure?**

By living according to YOUR WORD.

**I seek you with ALL my heart; do not
let me stray from your commands.**

How can I be Pure in my Walk with God?

- **OBEY God's Word**
- **SEEK AFTER God with ALL my heart**
- **ASK for God's Help**

Psalms 119:14-16 (NIV)

**I REJOICE in following your statutes as
one rejoices in great riches.**

**I meditate on your precepts and consider
your ways. I DELIGHT in your decrees;**

I will NOT NEGLECT your word.

Trembling at God's Word...

- **REJOICE** in Obedience
- **REFLECT** on God's Word
- **DELIGHT** in God's Word
- **Never NEGLECT** God's Word

Ezra's Message

- you have been **UNFAITHFUL**
- you have **ADDED** to Israel's **GUILT**
- make **CONFESSION** to God
- **DO** God's **WILL**
- **SEPARATE** yourselves

People who Married Pagan Wives:

17 Priest

6 Levites

1 temple singer

3 gatekeepers

84 ordinary people

111 Total

→ It was Not Racial...
...it was Religious

Psalms 106:34-39 (NIV)

They did not destroy the peoples as the LORD had commanded them, [35] but they mingled with the nations and adopted their customs. [36] They worshiped their idols, which became a snare to them. [37] They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons. [38] They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was desecrated by their blood. [39] They defiled themselves by what they did; by their deeds they prostituted themselves.

Remember that Ezra 9-10...

➤ **IS DESCRIPTIVE -**

telling us what happened

➤ **IS NOT PRESCRIPTIVE -**

telling us what to do today

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 (NIV)

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.

For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

[15] What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

Colossians 3:2-3 (NIV)

**Set your MINDS on things above,
not on earthly things.**

**For YOU DIED, and your life is now
hidden with Christ in God.**

Colossians 3:5 (NLT)

**So PUT TO DEATH the sinful,
earthly things lurking within you.....**