



# Ezra Prays for His Nation

Ezra 9:1-15



## The Returns

- 1<sup>st</sup> Group 538 to rebuild temple (Zerubbabel) 49,897 people
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Group 458 to restore people (Ezra leads) 1754 people
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Group 444 to rebuild walls (Nehemiah leads)



Ezra – a godly devoted Jew (“Help”)

A devoted student of the scriptures; skilled scribe

He helped to restore the Law to the nation

A man of prayer deeply burdened for the spiritual welfare of his people

# Ezra is Chosen



7:1-10 King Artaxerxes permitted Ezra to return to Jerusalem to assist the spiritual needs of the people

7:6 A scribe skilled in the law of Moses – the hand of God was upon him (v 6, 9, 28)

7:10 For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.



Ezra given permission by the King 7:12-26

Letter written in Aramaic language

Any Jew could go up with Ezra (13)

Large free will offering (16)

Even given expense account (20-22)



## Ezra's Task (7:25-28)

To establish order and religious worship in the land

His appreciation and praise (27-28)

Blessed be the LORD, the God of our fathers, who put such a thing as this into the heart of the king, to beautify the house of the LORD that is in Jerusalem, <sup>28</sup> and who extended to me his steadfast love. I took courage, for the hand of the LORD my God was on me,



## Making the Journey Ch 8

Assembling companions (1-14)

Finding and enlisting Levites (15-20)

Fasting for Prayer and Courage (21-23)

Journey to Jerusalem (8:31-36)

# Ezra's Reaction to Sin

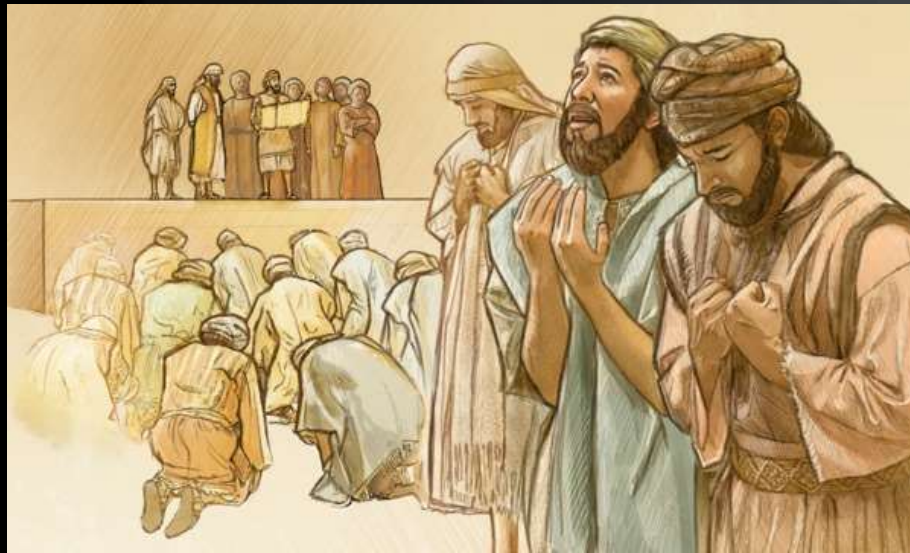


9:1-4 Ezra hears many people in Israel have sinned by taking foreign wives).. Ezra's reaction

9:3-4 As soon as I heard this, I tore my garment and my cloak and pulled hair from my head and beard and sat appalled.

<sup>4</sup> 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.





## Godly Reaction to Sin Ch 9

Their sin is reported 9:1-2 Marriages with foreign wives,  
Exodus 34:11-16; Deut 7:1-4

Ezra's prayer of confession (9:5-15)

Confess it without excuse to the God of mercy



## Shechaniah's Challenge Ch 10

Shechaniah listens and admits their sin (1-2)

Challenges the people to face their responsibility (4)

Public Oath and Call for Repentance

Their sin put away (10:18-44)



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