

THE PROCLAMATION

EZRA 9

Text:

Introduction:

As we left chapter eight Ezra and his company has arrived in Jerusalem. The time frame between the first exodus to Ezra's arrival is approximately 75-80 years.

A lot has been going on since the Temple was finished because as we start in our text we find the princes coming to Ezra with a serious problem.

They lost their separation.

They were doing according to the abominations of other peoples.

They were intermarrying. (Deuteronomy 7, 2
Corinthians 6:14)

Note:

1. THE REACTION OF EZRA (VS. 3)

Ezra 9:3

³ And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished.

- A. He Rent His Garments and Mantle
- B. Pulled Out the Hair of His Head and Beard
- C. Sat Astonished

2. THE REACTION OF THE GODLY ONES (VS. 4)

Ezra 9:4

⁴ Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice.

- A. They Assembled
- B. They Trembled
- C. Because of the Transgression of those that had been carried away

3. THE REQUEST (PRAYER) OF EZRA (VS. 5-15)

A. The Posture of Prayer (vs. 5)

Ezra 9:5

⁵ And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God,

B. The Asking of Forgiveness (vs. 6)

Ezra 9:6

⁶ And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over *our* head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.

C. The Remembrance of What Was Taken Place (vs. 7)

Ezra 9:7

⁷ Since the days of our fathers *have we been* in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, *and* our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as *it is* this day.

D. The Recognition of God's Grace (vs. 8-13)

Ezra 9:8-13

⁸ And now for a little space grace hath been *shewed* from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and

give us a little reviving in our bondage. ⁹ For we *were* bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem. ¹⁰ And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken thy commandments, ¹¹ Which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets, saying, The land, unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness. ¹² Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave *it* for an inheritance to your children for ever. ¹³ And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities *deserve*, and hast given us *such* deliverance as this;

- Grace has allowed us to come back.
- Grace has left us a remnant.
- Grace punishes us less than our iniquities deserve. (vs. 13)

Close:

How do we react to hearing about sin? Are we ashamed and blush at it? Do we pray for those in sin? Edmund Burke said, "For evil to triumph is good men do nothing." When we do not pray or do nothing for others in sin, we are just as guilty. {Ezekiel 3, 33}

Do we assemble and tremble at the Word of God?

We have the grace of God in our lives, but do we frustrate the grace of God? We frustrate the grace of God by forsaking His commandments.