

A Call to Prayer
Ezra 9

Present Spiritual Condition – 9:1-5

1. Ezra prepares for ministry – 1 (8:31-36)

“Now when these things were done”

God gave them a safe trip – 31-32

All the wealth was delivered - 33-34

People worshipped in thanks – 35

King’s edict was given to rulers – 36

2. Ezra learns vital information – 1-2

They are not truly ready for ministry

God’s people are not separated to God

They have intermarried with pagan tribes

People that worship false gods

Priests & Levites are guilty of disobedience

How can they lead in worship & spiritual ministry

The princes & rulers have been chief in this – 2

3. Ezra’s response to this – 3-5

He was filled with great grief – 3

Tore his clothes, pulled his hair & set appalled

Those committed to God’s Word gathered with him – 4

Realized the gravity of this situation

God’s people were again guilty of what caused exile

They shared Ezra’s grief & mourned with him

They trembled at God’s Word – Deut. 7:1-6

Israel did not drive out the Canaanites - Judges 1:19, 21, 27-36

Intermarried with them, even their kings intermarried as Solomon

They worshipped pagan gods & turned away from the Lord God

Rejected the message of God’s prophets - 2 Chronicles 30:11-21

At evening sacrifice Ezra fell on his knees before God - 5

Ezra’s Prayer of Confession – 9:6-15

1. He acknowledges past sin – 6-7

Expresses shame over their present state before God

“Our” iniquities have only increased more and more

“From the days of our fathers we have been in great guilt”

And we have suffered exile and captivity to our utter shame

From time of the Judges this sin was repeated again and again

2. He is thankful for God’s grace – 8-9

You have returned a remnant to this holy place

You did not forsake us in our slavery but restored us

You have brought us back to Jerusalem & to this Temple

You caused Persian kings to give permission and protection

3. He confesses present sin – 10-12

In spite of this here we are in disobedience
He rehearses God's commands & their disobedience
And the reasons why God gave them those commandments
It was all for our welfare & enjoying God's blessing

4. God is just in judging them – 13-15

Having experienced God's judgment for our sin
We are right back doing the same thing again
You would be righteous if you would consume us
We now stand before you in our guilt
How can we now come before you because of this

Praying for Authorities

1 Timothy 2:1-4

For their salvation –
That they lead promoting peace & security
That they promote godliness & holiness

Romans 13:1-4

That they humbly recognize their authority is God-given
That they resist evil & promote good
That they execute justice & punish those who do evil

Psalms 2:10-11

That they wisely serve God knowing they are accountable

Proverbs 11:14

That they surround themselves with wise counsel

James 3:17

That they seek God's wisdom
God's wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason,
Full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere

Proverbs 21:1

That they are submissive to God's direction