

Lesson 15
The Sin of the People Confessed and Corrected
(Ezra 9-10)

Questions

1. What trespass had the Jewish people committed, especially the leadership (9:1-2)?

2. How did Ezra react when he heard of the trespass of the people (9:3-4; see also 10:1, 6)?

3. What did Ezra acknowledge in his prayer concerning the people's sin (9:5-7)?

4. What did Ezra acknowledge in his prayer concerning God's grace, loving-kindness, law, punishment, and righteousness (9:8-15)?

5. What kind of people gathered to Ezra (10:1)?

6. What did Shecaniah admit and what did he propose to Ezra (10:2-4)?

7. What did Ezra make the people of Israel do and what proclamation was made (10:5-8)?

8. What did Ezra tell the assembly that gathered in Jerusalem and how did they respond (10:9-12)?

9. What plan was suggested to correct the matter of mixed marriages (10:13-14)?

10. Who was opposed to this plan (10:15)?
11. How long did it take to correct the matter (10:16-17)?
12. What different groups of men are listed as having married foreign wives (10:18-43)?
13. What is recorded in Ezra 10:44 that would have made the putting away of these wives difficult?

Digging Deeper

1. What OT law was violated when the Jewish men married the foreign women around them (9:1-2, 11-12)?
2. What does “confusion of face” (KJV) mean in Ezra 9:7 and what does “a nail in his holy place” (KJV) mean in Ezra 9:8?
3. What month in the Hebrew calendar is the “ninth month” (10:9)?
4. Were Jonathan and the others “employed” (KJV) to carry out the plan, or were they “opposed” (NKJV, etc.) to the plan (10:15)?

Applications for Today

1. God’s people are to live holy lives that are separate from sin and worldliness (9:1-2; 10:11; 2 Cor. 6:14 – 7:1).
2. It is good to mourn over sin and be appalled by it (9:3-5; 10:1, 6, 10; Jas. 4:8-10).

3. Do you tremble at the word of God being in awe (reverence) of it (9:4; 10:3; Isa. 66:2, 5)?
4. It is good to confess your sins to God and pray for forgiveness (9:5-15; 10:11; 1 Jn. 1:7-9)?
5. God shows his people grace so they can have a revival (9:8-9; Psa. 85:6; 138:7; Isa. 57:15).
6. Sin and its removal should be taken seriously (10:1-17; Gal. 6:1; Jas. 5:19-20).
7. There is hope for God's people when they sin (10:2; Lam. 3:26).
8. Sin must be removed according to God's law (10:3; Jas. 5:19-20).
9. It takes courage to get God's people out of their sin (10:4; Mt. 18:15-17; 1 Tim. 5:20).
10. Anyone who does not follow the law of God to separate from sin should be separated from the assembly of God's people (10:8; 1 Cor. 5:1ff; 2 Thess. 3:6-15).
11. God's wrath is upon those who sin (10:14; Josh. 22:20; Rom. 1:18; 1 Thess. 2:16).
12. Sometimes God's own people do not want to do what is right in order to remove sin (10:15; Rev. 2:20).
13. It should not take long to remove sin from among God's people (10:16-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:5-11; 7:8-12).
14. Beware of moral and spiritual apathy. Even leaders among God's people who are supposed to be holy can have sin in their life and they must be confronted (9:1-2; 10:18-44; Gal. 2:11; 1 Tim. 5:20).
15. Children may have to suffer the consequences of their parents' sins (10:3, 44; Ex. 20:5; 34:7).