

Those who tremble at God's Word

Ezra 9:4

- I don't believe anyone who reads and understands scripture would argue that we are living in the days of > **Is 5:20-21- "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil: who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter". "Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes; and prudent in their own sight".**
- These are people who truly believe that what God says in His Word is evil, is actually good, and what God says is good is really evil, so they operate in the dark and avoid the light, they look for experiences which afterward leave a bitter taste in anyone's life, and they call it sweet, and the things which are sweet and bring peace they call bitter. In our school systems there are counselors who encourage kids to try identity exploration, where a boy can really be a girl, and a girl can actually be a boy.
- Those who speak out against it, even if they are parents or grandparents, they are wrong, judgmental, narrow minded, and have no place being in a position of authority or influence. So they intimidate, and threaten them into silence, causing even some to question whether their stance of right or wrong is needed for this day and age. Men let me tell you this, more than any other time in my lifetime men are needed to stand up for biblical truth in the home, church, job, and the community.
- In Ezra chapter 9 after a long four month nine hundred mile journey through the desert, from Babylon to Jerusalem Ezra was expecting to see a people who were grateful to be back in their homeland after a seventy year absence due to captivity.
- Also its been between seventy and eighty yrs since Zerubbabel and Jeshua the priest had bought the first group to Jerusalem, making it at least 140-150 yrs since Judah was free to worship The Lord in accordance to God's Laws and commands.
- **V1-2** what he finds is not what he had expected, a contamination had occurred, as a group of the leaders, the priests, and the Levites had take for themselves and their sons wives from the pagan nations who lived near and around them.

- Not only that, but by doing so they brought the customs, idolatry, and false worship that God had previously exiled them from Jerusalem, back into their daily lives. **Mal 2:11-16** would later say that some of these men had even divorced their Jewish wives in order to marry heathen women from the other nations and tribes.
- In the NT Christians are warned not to marry or become entangled in romantic relationships with the unsaved, for by doing so you put yourself in danger of becoming sympathetic to false worship. If you have children with them then it becomes a battle in how they are going to be raised: Will it be Christian or open mindedness to what others believe, as we have to respect other people's beliefs.
- That sounds right and politically correct but it's absolutely wrong biblically, in fact every time I read **Ps 1:1-6** it's a reminder that only someone who is not influenced by those who don't know The Lord can fully except why these verses are so crucial to our walk and fellowship with Jesus.
- I was watching the news the other day and they showed a clip of a rabbit running around a football field, and the newscaster said he didn't understand why mother nature would make the rabbit with such funny feet, as it doesn't seem he can run too fast to get away from a predator.
- Then a woman whom I have heard say she is a Christian and is a member of a very prominent church began to comment about how cute the bunny was, in which the newscaster asked her directly why would mother nature do this it seems cruel.
- She laughed and began to justify what mother nature did to the poor bunny, it was so sad because you could clearly see she had no desire to set him straight, whether on air or off, that she had so compromised who she is supposed to be that he felt comfortable challenging her on air about creation and a creator.
- **V3-4** Ezra upon hearing this could have ignored it and said we are here to help rebuild Jerusalem so that's not my main concern, but he doesn't, He knows in order to rebuild Jerusalem in the way God wants he has to restore spiritual truth, and that means correcting past errors, so he tears his robe, plucked out some of his hair and beard, and sat down in astonishment upon what he has just heard.

- His response causes others to join him, but only those who trembled at God's word, this leads to a prayer of repentance for the rest of the chapter, and in chapter 10 a nationwide repentance, where for three months the people gathered and put away their pagan wives and families. Only after a quaking concerning God's Word did people's heart change toward what was right and what is wrong. It starts with just one who trembles at God's Word > **Is 66:2**, which leads to **2 Cor 10:5-6**.