



Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

August 14, 2022
Ezra 10: Separating Yourself From Sin

Artaxerxes, the Persian King who sent Ezra to Jerusalem to form a religious community there once again.



Here is his ruling city of Persepolis, which is in modern day Iran.
And just above the city in the hill is the tomb of Artaxerxes.



...take with you the silver and gold that the king and his advisers have freely given to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem... (Ezra 7:15)

Whatever the God of heaven has prescribed, let it be done with diligence for the temple of the God of heaven. Why should his wrath fall on the realm of the king and of his sons? (Ezra 7:23)

Whoever does not obey the law of your God and the law of the king must surely be punished by death, banishment, confiscation of property, or imprisonment. (Ezra 7:26)

Let's read Ezra 10:1-44

What happens to those who don't answer the summons?

What was the problem with the "foreign wives"?

The genealogy of Jesus the Messiah... (Matthew 1)

...Tamar... (Canaanite)

...Rahab... (Canaanite)

...Ruth... (Moabite)

...Bathsheba... (Probably a Hittite)

However...

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. (Ruth 1:16)

So, Ruth was a foreign wife, but not a pagan wife – like these in Ezra...

NT Teaching on Marriage

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14)

NT Teaching on Marriage

Marriages are not to be separated... To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife and... (1 Corinthians 7:12-14)

The book of Ezra is a study in revival. When people read the Word of God and apply its truths to their lives, when intercessory prayers flow for the saints, and when there is confession and separation from known sin, there will be power in the church to do great things. (William MacDonald)

General William Booth, founder of The Salvation Army, once said to a group of new officers, "I want you young men always to bear in mind that it is the nature of a fire to go out; you must keep it stirred and fed and the ashes removed."

Hope, is there anything in your life that is draining your devotion to God?

Are you willing to remove it from your life?

Examples: Music/Entertainment, a job pursuit, to be popular, time on a game/online, to be liked, to keep a friend, to have the latest _____...

Is your passion for God greater than your passion for anything else in this world?