



Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church

Dr. Brad Strait
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Key Sources:

Derek Kidner, Bible Project,
Bryan Estelle, Heather
Adams

Now There Is
HOPE

The Books of Ezra & Esther

Hope From
God's Faithfulness



God's
Covenant
Faithfulness



God's
Complete
Lordship.



God's Perfect Plan

Return to Jerusalem

516 BC

478

458

444

430 BC

1st Zerubbabel

“Born in Babylon”

Ezra 1-6

The Temple

Esther

“The Star”

Book of Esther

2nd Ezra

“Helper”

Ezra 7-10

The Hearts

3rd Nehemiah

“God Comforts”

Nehemiah

The Walls

How do God's people
restore their lives to
faithfulness?

✓ They return to the Promised Land.

Ezra 1-2, 7-8

✓ They reinstitute the sacrificial
Laws.

Ezra 3

✓ They rebuild the Temple.

Ezra 4-6

✓ They become holy and follow the Law more perfectly.

Ezra 9-10

✓ They rebuild the walls and make Jerusalem safe.

Nehemiah

Exodus 15:17

You will bring your people in and plant them on the mountain of your inheritance—the place, Lord, you made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, Lord, your hands established.

Jeremiah 50:33

“³³ The people of Israel are oppressed, and the people of Judah as well. All their captors hold them fast, refusing to let them go.

³⁴ Yet their Redeemer is strong; the Lord Almighty is his name. He will vigorously defend their cause so that he may bring rest to their land, but unrest to those who live in Babylon.”

Ezra 7:25 (Edit from Artaxerxes)

²⁵ “And you, Ezra, in accordance with the wisdom of your God, which you possess, appoint magistrates and judges to administer justice to all the people of Trans-Euphrates— all who know the laws of your God...”

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The Books of Ezra & Esther

Ezra 9 and 10

Why Marital Purity?

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**God is protecting a
people and a culture.**

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**God is making them
“holy” and set apart.**

Why Marital Purity?

God is protecting a people and a culture.

God is making them “holy” and set apart.

God is protecting the genetic line of David.

Ezra 9:6-7

“⁶ I am too ashamed and disgraced, my God, to lift up my face to you, because our sins are higher than our heads and our guilt has reached to the heavens. ⁷ From the days of our ancestors until now, our guilt has been great. Because of our sins,

Ezra 9:6-7

we and our kings and our priests have been subjected to the sword and captivity, to pillage and humiliation at the hand of foreign kings, as it is today.”

Ezra 9:10 (from Deuteronomy 7:1-6)

¹⁰ “But now, our God, what can we say after this? For we have forsaken the commands ¹¹ you gave through your servants the prophets when you said: ‘The land you are entering to possess is a land polluted by the corruption of its peoples. By their detestable practices they have filled it with their impurity from one end to the other.

Ezra 9:10-12

¹² ‘Therefore, do not give your daughters in marriage to their sons or take their daughters for your sons. Do not seek a treaty of friendship with them at any time, that you may be strong and eat the good things of the land and leave it to your children as an everlasting inheritance.’”



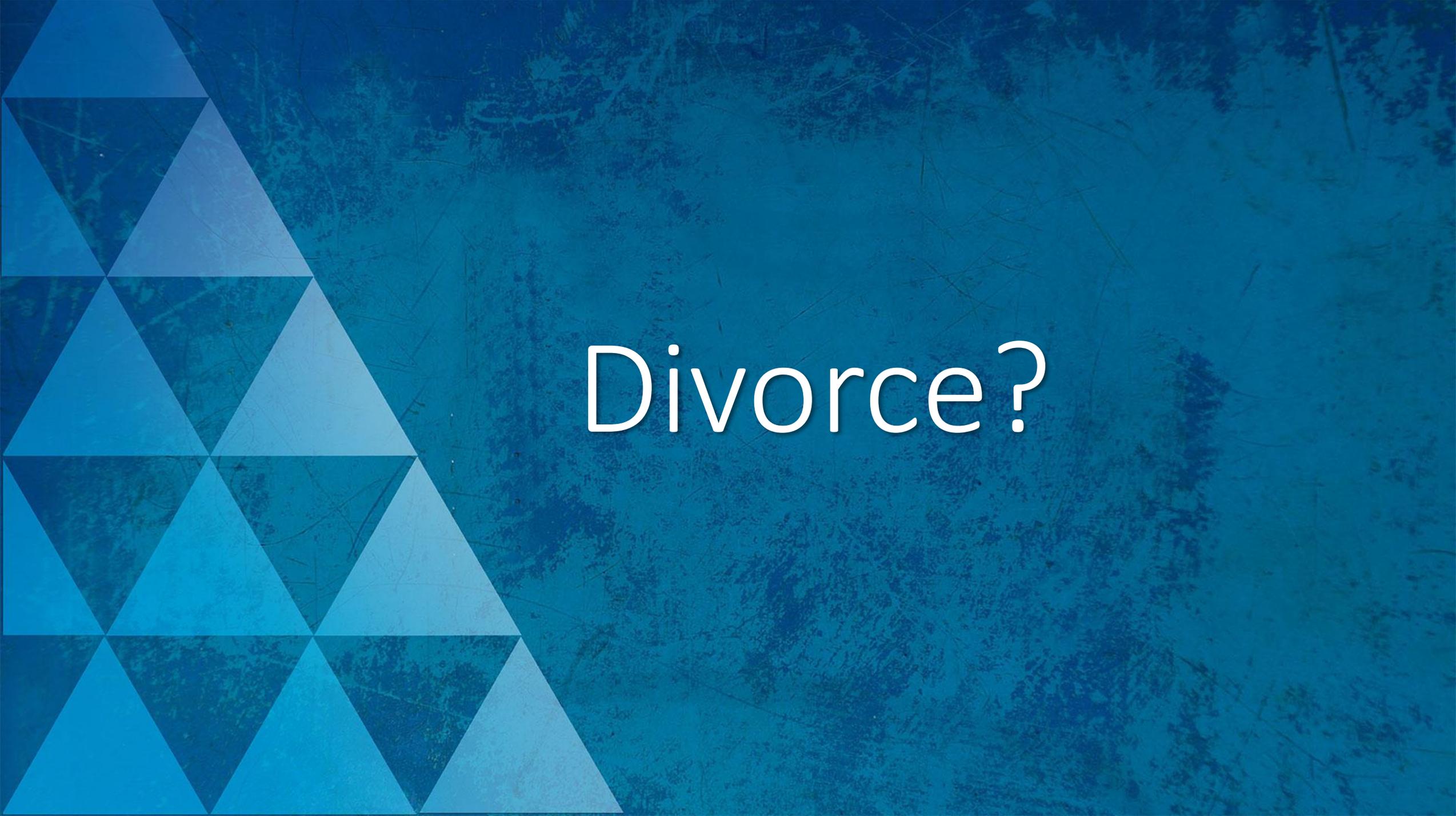
Humanity's Unfaithfulness

Ezra 10:2

Then Shekariah son of Jehiel, one of the descendants of Elam, said to Ezra, “We have been unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women from the peoples around us. But in spite of this, there is still hope for Israel.”

Ezra 10:3-4

³ Now let us make a covenant before our God to send away all these women and their children, in accordance with the counsel of my lord and of those who fear the commands of our God. Let it be done according to the Law. ⁴ Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage and do it.”



Divorce?

Divorce?

1. Ezra is not asking God.
2. Divorce is common and easy among Israelites.
3. Ezra recognizes the cliff ahead of them.
4. It is a symbolic action.
5. They are not legal wives.

Ezra 10:2

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Hebrew: invite in, tent with, to live together

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Ezra 9-10

✓ They rebuild the walls and make Jerusalem safe?

Nehemiah

How do God's people
restore their lives to
faithfulness?

They surrender and
seek a Messiah.



God's
Forward-
looking
Plan.

Ezra 9:6-9

⁸ “But now, **for a brief moment**, the Lord our God has been gracious in leaving us **a remnant** and giving us a **“tent peg”** in his sanctuary, and so our God gives light to our eyes and **“a partial relief”** in our bondage.

Ezra 9:6-9

⁹ Though we **are** slaves, our God has **not forsaken us in our bondage**. He has shown us kindness in the sight of the kings of Persia: He has granted **us new life** to rebuild the house of our God and repair its ruins, and he has given us a wall of protection in Judah and Jerusalem.



God's
Forward-
looking
Plan.

Return to Jerusalem

516 BC

430 BC

Cyrus II

Cambyses II

Smerdis Artaxerxes

Darius I

Xerxes I

Artaxerxes

Darius II

Esther

Ezra



God's
Forward-
looking
Plan.

Jesus in John 4:23-24

²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

Ephesians 2:14-18

¹⁴ For he [Jesus] himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of

Ephesians 2:14-18

the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.



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