

Ezra 9-10 –26 January 2023

“Tremble Before God In Our Homes”

Introduction

*In the Kings/Chronicles, Israel went into Babylonian Captivity in 3 waves, now they return the same way

1. 1st Wave - Ezra 1-6 (536-516 BC) - Gov Z & J.P.
2. 2nd Wave - Ezra 7-10 (457-432 BC) - Ezra
3. 3rd Wave - Nehemiah (445-425 BC) - Nehemiah
4. Book of Esther happens between 1st & 2nd waves

*During the 1st wave of return we saw God initiate a work & the faithful join in mission of rebuilding the core of their spiritual lives again

*Learned to push thru stagnation & enemy activity

*Learned to rely on God to motivate & empower

*They've built the “engine” of their spiritual life then Ezra came in the 2nd wave & instigated institutional growth by bringing an emphasis on God's Word

*Shining the light of God's Word will result in sin being seen and the need to deal with it

***Today let's look at the process of becoming a people that tremble before the Lord in our homes**

1st step is to see the condition (Chap 9:1-4)

Read Chap 9:1-2

1. Problem is not marrying into another race, but marrying into another religion
 - a. Read Mal 2:11
 - b. Act 17 at Mars Hill Paul reminds us that all nations come from “one blood” to seek God
 - c. Boaz married Ruth of another race & they both served God together
 - d. Rachab was of another race & become a great grandmother of Jesus our Savior
2. The principle is “don’t allow any other god to have influence in your family”
3. Notice, punishment in Babylon didn’t cure their idolatry
 - a. They are seen here AFTER the captivity as still in rebellion to God willing to serve others

Lev 26 Prophecy of Cursing for sinful acts w/ 2 themes

1. They that hate you will reign over you
2. If continued disobedience, punishment is 7x

If & When Did This Punishment Happen?

1. Jeremiah: 70 yrs punishment (Jer 25:11, 29:10)
2. Ezekiel: 430 yrs of punishment (Eze 4:4-8)
3. II Chr 36:21 concludes the Babylonian captivity is fulfillment of Jer 25
4. Daniel/Nehemiah agrees Babylonian captivity is curse of Lev 26 (Dan 9:11-13, Neh 1:8)
5. Babylonian captivity started 606 BC
6. Jeremiah's 70 years ended 536 BC
7. At this time (536 BC) Israel is still rebellious so Lev 26 applies (Ezra 9:1-3, 13-14, Neh 13 esp vs 17-18, Mal 2:2)
8. 7 times punishment from Lev 26 applies for the remaining 360 years = 2520 years
9. Convert to our years = 2483 years, 284 days
10. Add 1-year b/c there was no year 0 = 1948 AD
11. So conclusion to “those that hate you will reign over you” *was 1948!!!*

Read Vs 3-4

1. Only thing to do in the face of ungodliness is mourn and get with the godly to regroup
2. There are 3 great motivators
 - a. Fear of Punishment – didn't cure idolatry
 - b. Hope of Reward – This is true & fine but ultimately selfish
 - c. and Love – This is the greatest motivation
3. Ezra's institution of teaching the Bible brought about these prince's admission about what the true condition with the land and the people's homes
 - a. It's love of God thru His Word that is prompting change!
 - b. Read II Cor 5:14-15 – Paul confessed that “it's the love of God that constrains me” to want to live a godly life!

2nd step is to instigate confession (Chap 9:5-15)

Read Chap 9:5-7

1. Although Ezra is personally guilt-free, he's pleading on behalf of the nation with 'our' & 'we'
 - a. Same posture as Daniel's prayer in Dan 9 just a few years before this
2. So Ezra begins by confessing past sins

Read Vs 8-9

1. Ezra now shows gratitude for giving them this grace to return and a chance at revival and renewal

Read Vs 10-12

1. Specific repentance for their present sins
 - a. Specific violation of God's Law (vs 11)
 - b. Specific method of their sinful act (vs 12)
2. Read Rom 10:10 – heart beliefs, mouth confesses

Read Vs 13-14

1. We deserve your punishment for our choices
 - a. Read Rom 3:19

Read Vs 15

1. No special plea or request for a deal, just throwing Himself at the righteous Judge of all
2. We so often was to “bribe” God with “our deal” instead of asking Him what to do

3rd step is to enter a covenant (Chap 10:1-8)

Read Chap 10:1

1. Many people were moved to their own personal confession b/c of Ezra’s example

Read Vs 2-4

1. Shechaniah, on behalf of the sinning people, proposes a meaningful repentance & agreement

Read Vs 5-8

1. With Ezra’s political power they force the nation to convene and talk
2. But this is to ask the nation to repent & covenant w/ God

4th step is to receive cleansing (Chap 10:9-44)

Read Chap 9:9-10

1. Notice the bold clarity from Ezra, not worried about offending the flesh of man
2. I have stopped worrying about offending the flesh of man & instead started focusing on cleansing the spirit of man
 - a. When people know you care, you can speak hard principles into them & they'll receive it

Read Vs 11

1. Ezra's call to confession and repentive action
2. This isn't a generic "you know what to do" call
 - a. This is a specific call to action
 - b. Do this for others you see God working in

Read Vs 12-15

1. Cleansing isn't a one-time event, it takes time
2. They didn't shrink back b/c of hindrance of rain but planned to endure thru hard circumstances

Read Vs 16-19

1. To cleanse our spiritual life is to cleanse our home life
2. Why do we cleanse and purge?
 - a. Look back at Ezra 9:2 – To raise a holy seed that knows the Lord
 - b. Read Mal 2:15 – to raise kids that love God
 - c. Read John 15:1-3 – To bring forth more good fruit than we have already
3. The most direct place to help produce people that love Jesus is in the home with our children – start there

Read Vs 20-44

1. These lists are Halls of Fame; to be remembered for all time
2. These repenters are to be honored for all time

Conclusion

So, we will not end this book on a joyful note, b/c that's not how this account ends

We need to tremble before God enabling us to be positioned to advance Jesus in our homes

- 1. Look around & see our true condition**
 - a. What ungodly influences are will allowing that are harmful to us and our family?
- 2. Immediately begin to instigate confession**
 - a. Begin with honesty about our condition and gratitude for God's power & ability
- 3. Enter a covenant of agreement with God**
 - a. Ask for wisdom to see things from God's perspective...and then DO IT
- 4. Receive by faith cleansing for our sin**
 - a. Cleansed to bear more fruit of righteousness

Close with Isa 66:1-2 – All their work of building the temple doesn't please the Lord as much as having a person that comes to God in faith believing His Word!