

## **EZRA – NEHEMIAH: LESSON FOUR**

- I. MINISTRY OF REFORM – PUTTING AWAY FOREIGN WIVES (9-10)**
  - A. Ezra hears and reacts to sin (9:1-4)**
    - 1. “Holy seed have mingled themselves with the peoples of the land” (v. 2).
    - 2. Ezra tears garments and plucks hair in horror and grief (v. 3-4).
  - B. Ezra confesses sin on behalf of Israel and prays (9:5-15).**
  - C. Ezra encouraged to make covenant: put away foreign wives (10:1-17).**
    - 1. Proposed by Shecaniah (v. 1-5)
    - 2. Ezra’s fast (v.6)
    - 3. Proclamation summoning all Jews to Jerusalem (v. 7-9)
    - 4. Ezra’s address and people’s confession of sin (v. 10-15)
    - 5. Work accomplished (v. 16-17)
  - D. List of those who had married foreigners by whom some had children (10:18-44)**
    - 1. Priests (v. 18-22)
    - 2. Levites: including singers and porters (v. 23-24)
    - 3. Son’s of Israel (v. 25-44)

### **QUESTIONS:**

- 1. Where did God command Israel not to marry women from the peoples of the land?
- 2. Why did God give such a law?
- 3. From whom did Ezra learn of sin of Israel?
- 4. Who had been foremost in committing this sin?
- 5. How did Ezra react to the news of sin among his people?
- 6. Why did Ezra confess the sins of the people?

7. What do you learn from Ezra's prayer that made this sin so grievous?
  
8. Who encouraged Ezra to lead people to make the covenant with God to put away their foreign wives?  
  
Why is this especially commendable?
  
9. What was the penalty for not heeding the proclamation to assemble in Jerusalem in three days?
  
10. What *two reasons* caused the people to tremble when they assembled in Jerusalem?
  
11. What did Ezra command the people to do regarding their unlawful marriages?
  
12. Why do you think Meshullam might have stood up against Ezra's plan?
  
13. How long did it take to examine and solve the problem of foreign wives?
  
14. God would never want me to leave an unlawful marriage when innocent children are involved. (T) (F)