

EZRA'S SOLUTION
(Ezra 10:1-44)

- I. Israel's RESPONSE (Ezra 10:1-4)
 - A. Ezra's GRIEF provoked many others to WEEP (10:1)
 - B. Shecaniah suggested a REMEDY (10:3-4)
 - 1. Confessed the UNFAITHFULNESS of taking HEATHEN wives
 - 2. Expressed that there might yet be HOPE for Israel
 - 3. Recommended a NATIONAL covenant with God to EXPEL the heathen WOMEN and their CHILDREN
 - 4. Charged Ezra to ARISE and do his JOB, pledging his SUPPORT

- II. Ezra's ACTION (Ezra 10:5-44)
 - A. He committed to Shecaniah's PROPOSAL (19:5-6)
 - 1. Required priests, Levites, and "all Israel" to SWEAR to OBEY
 - 2. Retired to a private chamber to FAST and MOURN
 - B. He organized a PUBLIC ASSEMBLY (10:7-15)
 - 1. Commanded EVERYONE to gather in Jerusalem in THREE DAYS (10:7-9a)
 - 2. Had them sit TREMBLING in front of the TEMPLE in TORRENTIAL RAIN (10:9b)

3. Demanded they CONFESS their sin and DIVORCE their heathen wives (10:10-11)
 4. Received immediate ASSENT (10:12)
 5. Adopted a PRACTICAL proposal for procedure (10:13-15)
- C. He conducted a thorough INVESTIGATION (10:16-17)
1. Took ten days to SELECT and ORGANIZE the investigators
 2. Received the REPORT of their FINISHED work
- D. He published a LIST of the OFFENDERS (10:18-44)
1. From the PRIESTS and LEVITES: 23 names (10:18-24)
 2. From the SINGERS and GATEKEEPERS: 4 names (10:25)
 3. From the REST of ISRAEL: 86 names (10:26-44)
 4. From the “servants of SOLOMON” and the NETHINIM: NO names

III. Lessons

- A. A GODLY parent can have a DISOBEDIENT child
- B. The guilty are RESPONSIBLE no matter WHO THEY ARE
- C. Biblical leadership requires REVERENCE for God’s WORD and COURAGE to ACT on it
- D. The SIN of a MINORITY can CORRUPT the whole
- E. A believer’s marriage to an unbeliever endangers his FAMILY and the entire CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY