

Ezra-Nehemiah Part 7

Major Theme

Repentance is the only remedy for becoming unclean.

The problem of Unfaithfulness - Ezra 9:1-2

- **Badal** - separate out or distinct
- “And God separated out the light from the darkness.” // Genesis 1:4
- Exodus 34:11-16
- “The command not to intermarry with non-Israelites is not racism. Moses married a Midianite woman (Exod 2:16-22). Boaz married Ruth the Moabitess (Ruth 4). But in these cases Moses and Boaz remained faithful to Yahweh, and Zipporah and Ruth converted to the worship of Yahweh.” // James Hamilton Jr. “Exalting Jesus in Ezra-Nehemiah”

Ezra’s Response to Unfaithfulness - Ezra 9:3-15

- “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;” // Romans 3:23
- “Then I said: Woe is me for I am ruined because I am a man of unclean lips and live among a people of unclean lips, and because my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Armies.” // Isaiah 6:5
- Ezra confesses on behalf of the people since he is their priest
 - “He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” // 2 Corinthians 5:21
- “Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God,

let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” // Hebrews 4:14-16

- “if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.” // 2 Timothy 2:13

The People’s Response to Unfaithfulness - Ezra 10:1-17

- Propitiation
 - “He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.” // 1 John 2:2
- Expiation
 - “Aaron will lay both his hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the Israelites’ iniquities and rebellious acts — all their sins. He is to put them on the goat’s head and send it away into the wilderness by the man appointed for the task. The goat will carry all their iniquities into a desolate land, and the man will release it there.” // Leviticus 16:21-22
- Repentance is more than saying “I’m sorry.”
 - **Teshuvah** - to return or turn around
 - **Metanoia** - to change one's mind
 - Divorce is against God’s law, but so was the marrying of the women with foreign gods.
 - 1 Corinthians 7:1-16
 - 2 Corinthians 6:14-16