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## Ezra

The Book of Ezra is a book of the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Old Testament. It is named after its main character, Ezra, who was a Jewish priest and scribe who led a group of Jews from Babylon back to Jerusalem in the 5th century BCE.

The book is divided into two parts, known as Ezra 1-6 and Ezra 7-10. The first part describes the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile, under the leadership of Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah, and Joshua, the high priest. This rebuilding project was supported by King Cyrus of Persia, who allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem and funded the reconstruction of the temple.

The second part of the book takes place several decades later, during the reign of King Artaxerxes of Persia. Ezra, a priest and scribe, is sent to Jerusalem to teach the people the law of Moses and to reform their religious practices, which had become corrupted during their time in exile. Ezra is successful in his mission, and he leads the people in a public confession of their sins and a renewal of their commitment to obey God's law.

The book of Ezra is an important historical document that provides insight into the history of the Jewish people after the Babylonian exile. It also highlights the themes of obedience to God's law, the importance of the temple and worship, and the role of leaders in guiding the people back to spiritual purity.

Here is a brief description of each chapter in the book of Ezra in the Christian Bible:

Chapter 1: Introduces the decree of King Cyrus of Persia, which allows the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and return the articles of the temple that were taken by the Babylonians.

Chapter 2: Lists the names of the Jewish people who returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and Nehemiah, and mentions the financial support provided by King Cyrus for the rebuilding of the temple.

Chapter 3: Describes the beginning of the rebuilding of the temple by the Jewish people, including the reconstruction of the altar and the resumption of sacrifices.

Chapter 4: Introduces opposition to the rebuilding of the temple by some of the local people, and includes letters and appeals to stop the rebuilding of the temple.

Chapter 5: Reports that Jewish leaders informed King Darius of the opposition to the rebuilding of the temple and asked for his support to continue the work.

Chapter 6: Records King Darius' decree of support for the completion of the temple and his instructions for an annual offering to be made in the temple.

Chapter 7: Introduces Ezra, who was authorized to return to Jerusalem by King Artaxerxes to oversee the rebuilding of the temple.

Chapter 8: Lists the names of the Jewish people who returned to Jerusalem with Ezra, along with the gifts and offerings they brought with them.

Chapter 9: Ezra discovers that some of the Jewish people have married foreign women, which violates God's law. Ezra is deeply saddened and the people confess and repent.

Chapter 10: The Jewish people repent of their marriages to foreign women and follow Ezra's advice to dissolve these marriages.

Chapter 1: This chapter introduces the decree of King Cyrus of Persia, which allowed the Jewish people who had been exiled in Babylon to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. The chapter begins with a brief history of the Babylonian captivity, which lasted for 70 years. Then, in the first year of Cyrus' reign, he issued a decree that allowed the Jewish people to return to their homeland and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.

Cyrus' decree also included an instruction to return the articles of the temple that were taken by the Babylonians, such as gold and silver utensils, as well as the precious items that had been used for worship. The chapter then lists the number of these items, including 5,400 gold and silver vessels, which were returned to the Jewish people.

Cyrus also encouraged the Jewish people who wished to return to Jerusalem to do so, and provided them with financial support for their journey and the rebuilding of the temple. The chapter concludes with a summary of the Jewish people who were willing to return to Jerusalem, including priests, Levites, and all whose spirits were stirred to go up and rebuild the temple.

Overall, this chapter highlights the graciousness of King Cyrus towards the Jewish people, as well as his recognition of the importance of the temple to their religious and cultural identity. It also sets the stage for the rebuilding of the temple and the return of the Jewish people to their homeland, which will be further described in subsequent chapters of the book of Ezra.

Here are the key verses for chapter 1:

1. "In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing." (Ezra 1:1)
2. "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: 'The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah.'" (Ezra 1:2)
3. "Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them." (Ezra 1:3)

4. "Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites—everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem." (Ezra 1:5)
5. "Moreover, King Cyrus brought out the articles belonging to the temple of the Lord, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and had placed in the temple of his god." (Ezra 1:7)

These verses describe the decree of King Cyrus allowing the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple that had been destroyed by the Babylonians. They also highlight the involvement of God in this process and how He moved the hearts of people to carry out His plan.

Chapter 2: This chapter lists the names of the Jewish people who returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and Nehemiah, as well as the financial support provided by King Cyrus for the rebuilding of the temple. The chapter begins with a list of the families who returned, including those from the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi. The total number of people who returned is recorded as 42,360, including 7,337 servants and 200 singers.

The chapter goes on to list the names of the heads of families, as well as the number of people in each family. This includes the number of men, women, and children who returned, as well as the number of animals they brought with them. The chapter also includes a list of the priests, Levites, and temple servants who returned, along with their family names and the cities they came from.

Towards the end of the chapter, it is mentioned that some families could not provide evidence of their genealogy, and were therefore excluded from serving as priests. The chapter concludes by stating that the total number of people who returned was 42,360, and that they brought with them 7,537 servants and 200 singers.

Overall, this chapter provides a detailed list of the Jewish people who returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity, emphasizing the importance of genealogy and family ties. The large number of people who returned, along with their servants and singers, shows the great effort made by the Jewish people to rebuild the temple and their homeland after the long period of exile in Babylon.

Here are some key verses from chapter 2 of the Book of Ezra in the Christian Bible:

1. "Now these are the people of the province who came up from the captivity of the exiles, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken captive to Babylon (they returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to their own town)." (Ezra 2:1)
2. "The whole company numbered 42,360, besides their 7,337 male and female slaves; and they also had 200 male and female singers." (Ezra 2:64-65)
3. "When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the Lord, as prescribed by David king of Israel." (Ezra 3:10)
4. "But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy." (Ezra 3:12)

5. "All the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid." (Ezra 3:11)

These verses describe the return of the exiles from Babylon to Jerusalem and the rebuilding of the temple. They also highlight the emotions of the people involved, both those who were overjoyed at the prospect of rebuilding the temple, and those who mourned the loss of the former temple. Finally, the verses also describe the celebration that took place when the foundation of the new temple was laid.

Chapter 3: This chapter describes the rebuilding of the altar and the laying of the foundation for the temple in Jerusalem. The chapter begins by describing how the Jewish people gathered together as one to Jerusalem, and how they built the altar of the God of Israel in order to offer burnt offerings on it, as was prescribed in the law of Moses. After this, they began to rebuild the temple. The chapter describes how they laid the foundation, using stones that were quarried in order to prevent them from becoming impure. They also celebrated the laying of the foundation with music and singing, and gave thanks to God for his mercy and faithfulness to his people. However, not all the people were joyful. The chapter mentions that some of the older people who had seen the first temple wept when they saw the smaller size of the new foundation. Nevertheless, the people continued with their work, undeterred by this setback.

The chapter concludes with a description of the priests and Levites who led the people in worship and the rebuilding of the temple, and how they worked together to ensure that everything was done according to the law of Moses.

Overall, this chapter emphasizes the determination of the Jewish people to rebuild the temple and restore their religious practices, despite the challenges they faced. It also highlights the importance of worship and the role of the priests and Levites in leading the people in this endeavor.

Here are some key verses from chapter 3 of the Book of Ezra in the Christian Bible:

1. "When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, the people assembled together as one in Jerusalem." (Ezra 3:1)
2. "Then Joshua son of Jozadak and his fellow priests and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his associates began to build the altar of the God of Israel to sacrifice burnt offerings on it, in accordance with what is written in the Law of Moses the man of God." (Ezra 3:2)
3. "Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the Lord, both the morning and evening sacrifices." (Ezra 3:3)
4. "Then they celebrated the Festival of Tabernacles, as it is written in the Law, and offered the proper sacrifices each day." (Ezra 3:4)
5. "With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: 'He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever.'" (Ezra 3:11)

These verses describe the rebuilding of the altar in Jerusalem and the celebration of the Festival of Tabernacles. Despite their fears, the people obeyed the Law of Moses and offered sacrifices to God. They also expressed their gratitude and praise to the Lord

through song. These events mark an important step in the restoration of worship in Jerusalem.

Chapter 4: This chapter describes the opposition that the Jewish people faced as they were rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem. The chapter begins by introducing the Samaritans, who were a group of people who lived in the region of Samaria and who were not fully Jewish. These Samaritans offered to help with the rebuilding of the temple, but the Jewish leaders refused their offer, as they believed that the Samaritans were not true worshippers of God.

The Samaritans, feeling rejected, then began to actively oppose the rebuilding of the temple. They hired counselors to write letters to the Persian king, accusing the Jewish people of rebellion and insisting that the rebuilding of the temple would lead to the loss of Persian authority in the region.

The Persian king then ordered the work on the temple to be stopped. The Jewish people, however, did not give up. They continued to rebuild the temple in secret, but the Samaritans found out and sent another letter to the king, further accusing the Jewish people of rebellion and insisting that the work be stopped.

The chapter then describes the response of the Persian king, who ordered the work on the temple to be stopped permanently. The Jewish people were then forced to abandon their work on the temple, and it remained unfinished for many years.

Overall, this chapter shows the obstacles that the Jewish people faced as they attempted to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. It also highlights the tension between the Jewish people and the Samaritans, who were not fully accepted as part of the Jewish community. The chapter ends on a somber note, with the work on the temple being halted by the Persian authorities, leaving the Jewish people without a central place of worship.

Here are some key verses from chapter 4 of the Book of Ezra in the Christian Bible:

1. "When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the exiles were building a temple for the Lord, the God of Israel, they came to Zerubbabel and to the heads of the families and said, 'Let us help you build because, like you, we seek your God and have been sacrificing to him since the time of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us here.'" (Ezra 4:1-2)
2. "But Zerubbabel, Joshua and the rest of the heads of the families of Israel answered, 'You have no part with us in building a temple to our God. We alone will build it for the Lord, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus, the king of Persia, commanded us.'" (Ezra 4:3)
3. "Then the peoples around them set out to discourage the people of Judah and make them afraid to go on building." (Ezra 4:4)
4. "Thus the work on the house of God in Jerusalem came to a standstill until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia." (Ezra 4:24)

These verses describe the opposition faced by the Jews in their efforts to rebuild the temple. Despite the offer of help from the people who were living in the land, Zerubbabel and the other leaders refused, believing that only the Jews had the right to build the temple. The people who were living in the land then sought to discourage the Jews and

make them afraid to continue building, which ultimately resulted in a halt to the work on the temple until the reign of Darius.

Chapter 5: This chapter describes the renewal of the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. It begins with the prophets Haggai and Zechariah encouraging the Jewish people to resume work on the temple, despite the opposition they faced.

The Jewish people then sent a message to the Persian king, explaining that they were not rebelling against his authority, but were simply rebuilding the temple in accordance with the command of their God. The Persian king then ordered a search to be conducted to verify the legitimacy of their claim.

During this search, it was discovered that Cyrus, the previous Persian king, had indeed given permission for the Jewish people to rebuild the temple. Therefore, the Persian king not only allowed the work to resume, but also ordered that the expenses for the rebuilding be paid from the royal treasury.

The chapter ends with a description of the work on the temple being restarted, with the help of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah. The Jewish people were encouraged and strengthened by their faith in God and their belief that he would protect and provide for them as they continued with their work.

Overall, this chapter shows the importance of faith and persistence in the face of opposition. Despite the challenges they faced, the Jewish people continued to trust in God and believe that he would provide for them. The chapter also emphasizes the importance of obeying God's commandments, even in the face of opposition and adversity.

Here are some key verses from chapter 5 of the Book of Ezra in the Christian Bible:

1. "Now Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the prophet, a descendant of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them." (Ezra 5:1)
2. "Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Joshua son of Jozadak set to work to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem. And the prophets of God were with them, supporting them." (Ezra 5:2)
3. "But the eye of their God was watching over the elders of the Jews, and they were not stopped until a report could go to Darius and his written reply be received." (Ezra 5:5)
4. "The king asked, 'Who authorized you to rebuild this temple and to finish it?'" (Ezra 5:9)
5. "However, in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, King Cyrus issued a decree to rebuild this house of God." (Ezra 5:13)

These verses describe the continuation of the work on the temple, despite the opposition faced by the Jews. The prophets Haggai and Zechariah supported Zerubbabel and Joshua in their efforts. Although the work on the temple was initially halted, the Jews were eventually able to continue rebuilding because the eye of their God was watching over them. The chapter also includes a reference to the decree issued by King Cyrus to rebuild the temple, which had been the original authorization for the project.

Chapter 6: This chapter describes the completion of the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. The chapter begins with a decree from the Persian king Darius, confirming the previous decree of Cyrus allowing the Jewish people to rebuild the temple. Darius also ordered that the expenses for the rebuilding be paid from the royal treasury.

The Jewish people then completed the construction of the temple, dedicating it to God with great celebration and thanksgiving. They offered sacrifices and held a feast, rejoicing in the completion of the temple.

The chapter also describes the celebration of the Passover, which had not been celebrated in Jerusalem since the time of Josiah, a previous king of Judah. The Jewish people celebrated the Passover with great joy and reverence, offering sacrifices and observing the feast according to God's commandments.

The chapter ends with a description of the dedication of the temple, which was a significant event in the history of the Jewish people. The dedication was accompanied by sacrifices and offerings, as well as prayer and thanksgiving to God for his faithfulness in allowing them to complete the temple.

Overall, this chapter emphasizes the importance of faithfulness and obedience to God's commandments. Despite facing opposition and challenges, the Jewish people remained steadfast in their commitment to rebuild the temple and to worship God according to his commands. The completion of the temple was a significant event in their history, representing a renewed commitment to their faith and the restoration of their relationship with God.

Here are some key verses from chapter 6 of the Book of Ezra in the Christian Bible:

1. "Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon." (Ezra 6:1)
2. "And there was found at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of the Medes, a roll, and therein was a record thus written:" (Ezra 6:2)
3. "In the first year of Cyrus the king the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, Let the house be builded, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid; the height thereof threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof threescore cubits;" (Ezra 6:3)
4. "Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place." (Ezra 6:7)
5. "And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia." (Ezra 6:14)

These verses describe King Darius' decree to search for the original decree of King Cyrus, which authorized the Jews to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. The decree is found and reaffirmed, and the elders of the Jews are allowed to continue building the temple. The temple is completed, and the Jews prosper through the prophesying of Haggai and Zechariah.

Chapter 7 focuses on Ezra's own journey from Babylon to Jerusalem and his efforts to restore the religious life of the Jewish community there.

In the beginning of chapter 7, we are introduced to Ezra, who is described as a priest and scribe who was well-versed in the law of Moses, which was given to him by God. He is also noted as being of the priestly line of Aaron.

The chapter then recounts that Ezra set out from Babylon to Jerusalem in the seventh year of the reign of King Artaxerxes of Persia, along with a group of fellow Israelites. They arrived in Jerusalem four months later and were welcomed by the leaders of the community.

Ezra then began his efforts to restore religious life in Jerusalem. He brought with him a letter from King Artaxerxes, granting him permission to oversee the rebuilding of the Temple and to ensure that the people of Jerusalem obeyed God's laws. The letter also included a decree allowing Ezra to gather and transport to Jerusalem any Israelites who wished to join in the rebuilding effort.

Ezra then gathered a group of Levites and priests and set about reestablishing the worship of God in Jerusalem. He led the people in fasting and prayer, and preached to them from the law of Moses. The people were moved to repentance and renewed their commitment to obeying God's commandments.

Finally, in the last section of the chapter, Ezra recounts his own genealogy, tracing his lineage back to Aaron, the first high priest of Israel. This served to establish Ezra's own authority as a priest and scribe, and to reinforce his importance as a leader in the restoration of religious life in Jerusalem.

Overall, chapter 7 of the book of Ezra is an account of Ezra's journey to Jerusalem, his efforts to restore religious life there, and his own genealogy as a priest and scribe. It demonstrates his commitment to upholding the law of Moses and his dedication to serving God's people.

Here are some key verses from chapter 7 of the Book of Ezra in the Christian Bible:

1. "Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah," (Ezra 7:1)
2. "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments." (Ezra 7:10)
3. "Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers, which hath put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem:" (Ezra 7:27)
4. "And hath extended mercy unto me before the king, and his counsellors, and before all the king's mighty princes. And I was strengthened as the hand of the Lord my God was upon me, and I gathered together out of Israel chief men to go up with me." (Ezra 7:28)

These verses describe the arrival of Ezra in Jerusalem, under the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia. Ezra is a priest and a scribe who has prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, do it, and teach it in Israel. He is blessed by the Lord God of their fathers and by the king who has given him permission to beautify the house of the Lord in Jerusalem. Ezra is strengthened by the hand of the Lord, and he gathers chief men from Israel to go up with him.



the book "Ezra" in Christian bible;; describe chapter 8 in detail

The book of Ezra is a part of the Old Testament in the Christian Bible and recounts the story of the return of the exiled Israelites from Babylonian captivity to Jerusalem, and the rebuilding of the Temple of God. Chapter 8 focuses on Ezra's journey back to Jerusalem from Babylon, and the people who accompanied him.

In the beginning of chapter 8, Ezra gathers a group of people to travel with him back to Jerusalem from Babylon. The chapter lists the heads of the families who accompanied Ezra on the journey, and notes that there were no Levites among them. Ezra then proclaims a fast to seek God's protection for the journey.

Ezra then entrusts the valuable vessels and gold and silver offerings for the temple to the priests and Levites who will serve there. He is careful to ensure that they are weighed and accounted for, and that they are transported with great care.

The chapter then describes the journey of Ezra and his group, which was a difficult and dangerous one. They traveled through the desert, and faced the threat of robbers and enemies along the way. Despite these challenges, they arrived safely in Jerusalem, and the treasures they had brought with them were delivered intact to the priests and Levites for use in the Temple.

Ezra then recounts the offerings made by the people for the Temple, which included gold and silver vessels, as well as other precious items. These offerings were presented to the priests and Levites, who were tasked with the responsibility of overseeing their use in the worship of God.

Overall, chapter 8 of the book of Ezra is an account of Ezra's journey back to Jerusalem from Babylon, and the people who accompanied him. It emphasizes the care that was taken to transport the treasures of the Temple, and the dangers that were faced along the way. It also highlights the dedication of the people to the worship of God, as demonstrated by their generous offerings for the Temple.

Here are some key verses from chapter 8 of the Book of Ezra in the Christian Bible:

1. "These are now the chief of their fathers, and this is the genealogy of them that went up with me from Babylon, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king." (Ezra 8:1)
2. "And I said unto them, Ye are holy unto the Lord; the vessels are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering unto the Lord God of your fathers." (Ezra 8:28)
3. "Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance." (Ezra 8:21)
4. "So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us." (Ezra 8:23)

These verses describe the journey of Ezra and the people who went up with him from Babylon to Jerusalem. The chapter begins with a genealogy of the leaders who went with him. Ezra proclaims a fast at the river of Ahava to seek guidance from God for their journey, and they humbly present their offerings of silver and gold for the service of the Lord. They successfully arrive in Jerusalem with all the treasures that they had been entrusted with, and they offer sacrifices to the Lord. The chapter ends with a list of the treasures that they brought with them.

the book "Ezra" in Christian bible;; describe chapter 9 in detail

The book of Ezra is a part of the Old Testament in the Christian Bible and recounts the story of the return of the exiled Israelites from Babylonian captivity to Jerusalem, and the rebuilding of the Temple of God. Chapter 9 focuses on Ezra's reaction to the news that the people of Israel have been intermarrying with the surrounding pagan nations, which is a violation of God's commands.

In the beginning of chapter 9, Ezra learns that many of the Israelites, including priests and Levites, have intermarried with the surrounding pagan nations. This was a serious issue, as it went against God's commandments and threatened the purity of the Israelite community. Ezra is deeply distressed by this news, and tears his clothes and pulls hair from his beard as a sign of mourning.

Ezra then prays to God, confessing the sins of the people and asking for forgiveness. He acknowledges that the people have been unfaithful to God, and that they have not obeyed His commands. He pleads with God to show mercy and to spare the Israelites from further punishment.

Ezra then goes on to publicly confess the sins of the people before the community. He implores them to repent and turn back to God, reminding them of the dangers of intermarrying with the pagan nations and urging them to renew their commitment to following God's commands.

The chapter concludes with the people responding to Ezra's words by pledging to put away their foreign wives and to separate themselves from the surrounding nations. They make a solemn agreement to follow God's commands and to obey His laws, and they ask for Ezra's guidance in this process.

Overall, chapter 9 of the book of Ezra is an account of Ezra's reaction to the news of the people's intermarriage with the surrounding pagan nations, his prayer for forgiveness, and his public confession of the people's sins. It highlights the importance of obeying God's commands and the need for repentance and renewal in the Israelite community.

Here are some key verses from chapter 9 of the Book of Ezra in the Christian Bible:

1. "Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites." (Ezra 9:1)
2. "And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished." (Ezra 9:3)
3. "O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens." (Ezra 9:6)
4. "And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage." (Ezra 9:8)

These verses describe Ezra's reaction to the news that the people of Israel, the priests, and the Levites have not separated themselves from the people of the lands and have been participating in their abominations. Ezra is deeply troubled by this and tears his garments

and plucks out his hair in distress. He prays to God, confessing the sins of the people and asking for forgiveness. He acknowledges that God has shown grace to them by leaving a remnant to escape and giving them a place in His holy place. He ends his prayer with a plea for God's mercy and a desire to do what is right in His eyes.

Chapter 10 focuses on the actions taken by the Israelites to correct their sin of intermarriage with the surrounding pagan nations.

In the beginning of chapter 10, the people of Israel gather together before the Temple in Jerusalem to hear Ezra's words. He tells them that they have sinned by intermarrying with the surrounding pagan nations, and that they must separate themselves from their foreign wives and children to make things right with God.

The people agree to follow Ezra's instructions, and they make a pledge to do so. Ezra then leaves the Temple and goes to a place called "the chamber of Jehohanan," where he spends the night fasting and mourning for the sins of the people.

The next day, Ezra meets with the leaders of the community to discuss how they will put their pledge into action. They agree to make a proclamation throughout all the towns and cities of Israel, calling on the people to gather together in Jerusalem within three days to confess their sins and to separate themselves from their foreign wives and children.

The people respond to this proclamation by coming to Jerusalem and gathering in the open square before the Temple. The leaders of the community then begin the process of identifying those who had intermarried with the pagan nations, and they encourage them to confess their sin and to separate themselves from their foreign wives.

Many of the people respond to this call, and they separate themselves from their foreign wives and children. The chapter concludes with a list of those who had intermarried, and who had made the decision to separate themselves from their foreign spouses.

Overall, chapter 10 of the book of Ezra is an account of the actions taken by the Israelites to correct their sin of intermarriage with the surrounding pagan nations. It highlights the importance of confessing one's sins and making things right with God, and it emphasizes the need for obedience to God's commands. The chapter also provides a list of those who had intermarried and who had made the decision to separate themselves from their foreign spouses, as a record of their commitment to obeying God's laws.

Here are some key verses from chapter 10 of the Book of Ezra in the Christian Bible:

1. "Now while Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people wept very sore." (Ezra 10:1)
2. "Then Ezra rose up from before the house of God, and went into the chamber of Johanan the son of Eliashib: and when he came thither, he did eat no bread, nor drink water: for he mourned because of the transgression of them that had been carried away." (Ezra 10:6)
3. "Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law." (Ezra 10:3)

4. "Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do." (Ezra 10:12)

These verses describe Ezra's reaction to the discovery that many of the Israelites who had returned from captivity had taken foreign wives, which was a violation of the law of God. Ezra prays and makes confession, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God. A great congregation of men, women, and children assembles to hear him. Ezra takes action and goes to the chamber of Johanan, where he mourns because of the transgression of the people. He proposes a covenant to put away all the foreign wives and their children, according to the law of God. The congregation agrees with him, and they make a covenant to do as Ezra has commanded. The chapter ends with a list of the men who had taken foreign wives and the names of their wives.

Notes:

The book of Ezra is a part of the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Old Testament. It describes the return of the exiled Jewish people from Babylon to Jerusalem, the rebuilding of the Temple, and the restoration of worship in Jerusalem. While there may be various difficult questions raised by the book of Ezra, here are a few that have been debated among scholars and theologians:

1. Who was the author of the book of Ezra? While the book is traditionally attributed to Ezra, some scholars argue that it was written by multiple authors or edited over time.
2. When was the book of Ezra written? There is no consensus among scholars about the exact date of the book's composition. Some suggest that it was written in the 5th century BC, while others argue that it was composed later, possibly in the 3rd century BC.
3. What was the purpose of the book of Ezra? Some scholars suggest that the book was intended to promote the rebuilding of the Temple and the restoration of Jewish worship in Jerusalem, while others argue that it was written to assert the legitimacy of Ezra's priestly lineage.
4. How should we understand the role of Ezra in the book? While Ezra is often portrayed as a hero in the book, some scholars question his actions, particularly his forced divorce of Jewish men from their non-Jewish wives.
5. What can we learn from the book of Ezra about the relationship between Jews and non-Jews? The book raises questions about the boundaries between different religious and cultural groups, and the tensions that can arise when these boundaries are crossed.

While there may not be clear-cut answers to these questions, they provide avenues for further exploration and reflection on the meaning and significance of the book of Ezra.