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## Daily Bible devotional; Daily Rice 2024 July 07

YouTube Prayer Link

Confess sins and repent, live happily

Ezra chapter 10

Ezra's Repentance and Prayer: Once the problem of mixed marriage was revealed, Ezra was very sad and repentant. He tore his clothes and pleaded out with a convicted prayer for God's forgiveness. He confessed the sins of the people of Israel and asked God for forgiveness. The Israeli people's response: Inspired by Ezra, the people of Israel also felt deep remorse and grief over their crimes. They agreed to act according to God's law by sending foreign wives and their sons back to their homeland and divorced them so that the people of Israel could return to God's law. Why do people blame themselves so much, and even be willing to make such decisions? It is telling us to have an uncompromising attitude towards sin. Sin is like a poisonous sore that will corrupt your life until you do, resist it! Why did God leave the church? It is because of the compromise attitude that man takes towards sin! If God forsaken a place, it is not because God has no grace or mercy, but because of the sin of man; If a church is not able to maintain an attitude of holiness, the wrath of God will manifest itself in that place. There are two lessons to be learned in this chapter today: first, overall holiness; Second, in the process of overall holiness, if there is sin, it must be dealt with. Don't say: Jesus blew out this sin, and there will be no problem! Sin must be removed, and the brothers and sisters must have Ezra's uncompromising attitude towards sin and its dealings, so that 'the wrath of God is turned away' (v.14). The root cause of all the problems and tragedies in the world today is that people do not know God. If people don't know God and live according to their own will, then the devil won't let us go. If we know God, we need to know that God is a jealous God and a holy God, and then we begin to live a holy life and never tolerate sin. Because Ezra knew God, he took this very firm attitude. Sadly,

not long after Ezra, the Israelites began to marry Gentile women again. For there were few men who were able to stand there and stand there against sin.

In the early days of the church, a husband and wife, Ananias and Sapphira, deceived the Holy Spirit and kept a few of the money for their offerings, and Peter told them to die immediately! The church today also needs to have a keen sense of sin, and to repent immediately when a sin is committed without God's warning. A keen sense of the spirit can make us repent of our weakness immediately and not allow sin to exist in our lives. When Ezra discovered that the people had sinned, Ezra did not use reproach to change people's behavior. Just by grieving and suffering over their sins, he became a leader who was willing to repent of his sins. By his example, he brought the sinful people to God. The church today also needs such people to help and lead those sinful brothers and sisters to repentance. When the people were convicted of their sins and repented before God, they believed that God could help them overcome their sin, and they did overcome it. God's works are often proportional to our trust in God, and when we believe that God is great, God is great in us. If we have too little idea of God, too little faith; God cannot do great things among us. The Lord said, "It is impossible in the sight of men, but all things are possible in those who believe." Many people receive the emotion of God's Word and have a burning determination in their hearts, but after a short time, this zeal will not last long. As a result, there is no beginning and no end, and gradually I lose my acceptance before God. We should hold fast to receiving before God until God's promises are fulfilled in us. Let us be consistent and make receiving a strength to walk the course God wants us to take.

When Ezra prayed, confessed his sins, wept, and fell on his face before the temple, he had a great impact. When problems arise, the leaders do not blame the masses at the first time, but rise up and take responsibility. Ezra did a kind of repentance of conviction, not sinning himself, but confessing sins in the place of the people. The act of confession of sin is not due to conviction of sin, but to serve God because of the sorrow of seeing God, so this confession of sin is to serve God before God on behalf of the people. This is one of the most important roles of the priesthood. Now that we are priests, we also need to learn to grieve over God's sorrow. Verse 18 begins with a list of 113 names, including priests, Levites, and twelve tribes, each of which is remembered by God when we have the heart to return. In the same way, our failure to keep God's law is also recorded, God sees the whole picture, and whether we do good or evil, we have to answer to God, and there is no way to avoid it. God rewards us when we do right, and holds God accountable when we do wrong. Worship is to praise God's grace, mercy, love, and justice. Worship is also for our personal lives, and when we worship the one true God, we also need to pursue single-mindedness. Reading the Bible every day allows God's Word to guide our hearts and minds to do things every day, and God will give us wisdom to help us get closer and closer to God's likeness in dealing with things. If we grasp God's Word every day, we will be closer to God in our lives, and we will become more like God before we know it.

We pray together:

Dear Heavenly Father, we come to you to confess our sins and receive the forgiveness of Christ. We recognize that our thoughts, words, and deeds are contrary to your will, and we are willing to renew our will, to do your will, to renounce all disobedience to you, and to live by you.

Abba Father, we thank you for making us understand through today's text that it is easy for us to sin against you when we are not clear or serious about your words and commands. But there is still hope that if we truly repent, not only crying, praying, and confessing our sins before you, but also taking concrete action to resolve our sins, you will encourage us and be gracious to us again.

Today, as children of God, let us always be vigilant and sensitive to sin. If you realize that you have sinned against God, you should examine it before God and repent sincerely. Abba Father, come and enlighten us, search us, and let us see what has sinned against you in our words and deeds, or in our hearts and minds, and forgive us the sins we have committed and the sins that have not been revealed. Ask your Holy Spirit to guide us so that we can be sensitive to sin and repentant immediately when we have sinned against you, so that we can live a life that is acceptable to you.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

#### Ezra Chapter 10

10:1 While Ezra prayed, confessed, wept, and fell on his face before the temple, men and women of Israel gathered together in Ezra, and became a great assembly. All the people wept bitterly.

10:2 And Shecani, the son of Jehiel, the son of Elama, said to Ezra, "We have taken a foreign daughter here and there, and have sinned against our God, and there is hope for the Israelites."

10:3 Now make a covenant with our God, put away all these wives, and depart from what is born of them, according to the law, as our Lord and those who are wary by the command of God.

10:4 Rise up, this is your duty, we will help you, you should do it.

10:5 And Ezraben arose, and the chief priests, and the Levites, and the Israelites swore an oath, saying, Do as they say. And they swore an oath.

10:6 And Ezra arose from the temple and went into the house of Johanan, the son of Eliash, and when he came there he did not eat or drink water. Because of the sins of the exiles, and the sorrow of the heart.

10:7 They told Judah and Jerusalem that they should be gathered together in Jerusalem.

10:8 Whoever does not obey the agreement of the princes and elders not to come within three days shall have his house raided and sent him out of the congregation of the captives. 10:9

So Judah and Benjah were gathered together in Jerusalem for three days. It was the twenty th day of the ninth month, and all the people were sitting in the open place in front of the temple. Because of this, and because of the heavy rain, they were all trembling. 10:10 And

Ezra the priest stood up and said unto them, Thou art guilty, for thou hast taken a foreign daughter to wife, and hast added to the sins of the Israelites. 10:11 Now confess your sins to the God of your fathers in Yahweh, and do His will, and turn away from the people of these lands, and the daughters of the Gentiles. 10:12 The congregation answered with a loud voice, "We will do as you say." 10:13 It's just that there are so many people and it rains heavily, so we can't stand outside, and it's not something we can do in a day or two, because we have committed a great sin in it.

10:14 it is better to do it for the leaders of the plenum . Whoever takes a foreign daughter in our city shall come with the elders and judges of his own city at the appointed time until this is done. And the wrath of God turned away from us. 10:15 But Jonathan, the son of Azahel, and Jahasher the son of Teva, hindered [or acted as general secretary] of this, and Meshuram and Shabtai the Levite helped them.

10:16 The same is true of the exiles. And Ezra the priest and the heads of the fathers' houses, according to their families, were all named to the sect, and they were present on the first day of the tenth month to inquire into the matter.

10:17 And on the first day of the first month, the number of men who had married foreign daughters was ascertained. 10:18 And among the priests it was found that the Gentile daughters were wives, the sons of Jossadak, the sons of Jeshua, and his brethren, Maseah, Elisher, Jarid, and Gedaliah,

10:19 They should then divorce their wives . Because of their sins, they sacrificed one of the sheep of the flock to atone for their sins.

10:20 Of the sons of Immai: Hanani and Zebadiah. 10:21 Of the sons of Harim: Maziah, Elijah, Shemaiah, Jehiel and Uzijah.

10:22 Of the sons of Pashhur: Elionai, Masea, Ishmar, Nathaniel, Jozabal, and Eliazar.

10:23 Among the Levites were Jozabal, Shimei, and Cheraiah, and Gerariah, who was Gerata. and Pythahijah, and Jedah, and Eliezer. 10:24 Among the singers there was Eliah. Among the gatekeepers were the saloons, the Tilians, and the Uli.

10:25 Of the sons of Barrech the Israelite: Rame, Jezeiah, Maciah, Miamin, Eliazar, Makiah, and Benaiah. 10:26 Of the sons of Elam: Mattaniah, Zechariah, Jehiel, Abdeh, Jeremoth, and Elijah.

10:27 Among the sons of Zatu were Eliohne, Eliashib, Mattaniah, Jeremoth, Zabal, and Azissa.

10:28 Among the sons of Bebai: Johanam, Hananiah, Saab and Aal.

10:29 Of the sons of Bani: Messh, and Marul, and Adaniah, and Assyria, and Ashur, and Shiab, and Jeremoth.

10:30 Of the sons of Bahammo: Adina, and Kira, and Benaiah, and Maseaiah, and Matthaniah, and Matthani, and Bezariel, and Binne, and Manasseh.

- 10:31 Among the sons of Harim, Eliezer and Ishiah, Ishiah, Makiah, Shimaiah, Simese,  
10:32 Benjames, Marer, Shemariah.  
10:33 Of the sons of Hathon were Mathnei, Madatha, Zabal, Eliphelet, Jeremai,  
Manamesi, and Shimei.  
10:34 Among the children of Barney were Mars, Darkland, Uyi,  
10:35 Benaiah, Bediah, Cheru,  
10:36 Vaniah, Meremoth, Elias,  
10:37 Mattani, Matnai, Jasau,  
10:38 Barney, Binne, Show,  
10:39 Selemiah, Nathan, Adaiah,  
10:40 Manadis, Sasai, Sarai,  
10:41 Asalian, Sheremiah, Shermariah,  
10:42 Shalon, Amaliah, Joseph.  
10:43 Of Nebo's sons Jere, and Mamathiah, and Zabal, and Sei  
Benah, Jath, Joel, Benaiah.  
10:44 All of them took foreign daughters as wives, and some of them had children.

Ezra chapter 10 describes the process of repentance and reform carried out by the people of Israel under the leadership of Ezra, dealing with the issue of mixed marriage.

The main descriptions are as follows:

**Mixed Marriage Exposed:** Beginning in Ezra 10, Ezra learned that some of the Israelites had violated God's law by marrying foreigners. These mixed marriages were expressly forbidden in God's law because God feared that it would lead them to worship other gods and turn away from the true God.

**Ezra's Repentance and Prayer:** Once the issue of mixed marriage was revealed, Ezra was very sad and repentant. He tore his clothes, pulled dustpans and dust, and pleaded with earnest prayer for God's forgiveness. He confessed his sins and took on the sins of the people of Israel and asked for God's forgiveness. **The Israeli people's response:** Inspired by Ezra, the people of Israel

are also deeply remorseful and saddened by their crimes. They agreed to follow God's law by sending foreign wives and their children back to their homeland and divorcing them so that the people of Israel could return to God's law.

Implementation of the reform: Ezra and the priests convened a public meeting of the people of Israel to settle the issue of mixed marriages in accordance with God's law. The rites of consecration were performed and the names of those involved in mixed marriages were recorded. They ensured that the people of Israel returned to God's law and took action to change the wrong situation.

Handling of foreign wives: According to God's law, the people of Israel divorced their foreign wives and sent them and their children back to their homeland. This process was to ensure that the people of Israel were pure in their faith and returned to the ways of God.

This chapter highlights the importance of repentance and conversion. After exposing their sins, Ezra and the people of Israel were deeply repentant, sought God's forgiveness, and resolved to act according to God's law. This repentance and conversion is a crucial step in rebuilding their relationship with God, ensuring that they can maintain the blessings God has given them.

Ezra 10:28-44 is an important passage in this chapter. In this passage, it is recorded that:

The process of repentance and reform of the people of Israel on the question of mixed marriage. Here is an excerpt from this passage:

28 Now let us make a covenant with our God, and put away all these wives, and depart from the ones that have been born of them, and walk according to the law, as my lord and those who tremble at the command of God. 29 Obey the law, for it is your duty and duty to do it before our God. 30 Whoever does not do the commandments of our Lord and the law of God let him do so quickly. ”

31 So Jonathan the chief priest, and Sheremiah, and Hanani, one of Nehemiah's brothers of the Levites, arose together, and came out of those whom they had taken, and led them that they had taken, and swore to divorce their wives. 32 And whosoever shall mingle with the daughters of the Gentiles, shall come within these three days, according to the time which the chief priests shall appoint. 33 And on the first day, of the sons of Jonathan the chief priest, Johanan the son of Kajah, and his brethren. 34 On the second day Mithulam the son of Mirathiah, and Sabadi the son of Maaseiah, and his brothers from Jerimoth, 35 36 On the third day the sons of Shepbi, and

Mattseiah the son of Binnai, and Shemaiah the son of Elizer, 37 and Jozabad the son of Jari, and Jadu, the son of Tira, came. 38 And all these men searched their genealogies in the law, and found themselves to be Israelites. He who had been sought had not been found until now, and therefore he was removed from the priesthood. 39 And they were led by the governor of the province, Hanani, one of Hanani's brothers, and his brethren. 40 And they set apart the swearers, and led them to swear an oath for all the people of Israel, according to the law of God, and to Moses the servant of God. And when they found the daughters of the Gentiles, they divorced them and drove them out with the sons that were born to them. 41 So the congregation cast lots for the priesthood, and took out one or two of the houses, that they might determine their origin according to the law of God and the law of Moses. 42 And their fathers' fathers, and their priests, who had cast lots, sat down before God according to the genealogy. Three days before the New Moon Festival in Jerusalem, the case was tried. 43 And it came to pass on the twentieth day of the seventh month, that they had finished judging all cases, even cases of adulteration with the daughters of the Gentiles. 44 And there were mixed men among the children of Israel. And so it was among the priests, Maaseiah the son of Jedaiah, the son of Jeshua, and his brethren: Methullam, Eli-Isher, Jarib, and Cardaih. (Ezra 10:28-44)

This passage records the process by which Ezra and the people of Israel convicted themselves of their sins and repented after exposing the problem of mixed marriage. They regretted the issue of mixed marriage and decided to divorce according to God's law and return to God's ways. They performed a ritual of repentance and dealt with cases of mixed marriages according to the law, ensuring that the people of Israel returned to God's law. This passage emphasizes the importance of repentance and return to God, as well as following God's law and God's will.

Ezra 10 records the process of repentance and restoration of the people of Israel under the leadership of Ezra in order to correct the problem of mixed marriage. The theological centrophism of this chapter deals with repentance and reform, the sanctification of God, and God's love and forgiveness of sins.

Theological Central Ideas:

**Repentance and Reform:** In Ezra 10, the people of Israel are confronted with the problem of mixed marriage, they repent of their transgressions, decide to divorce the Gentiles, and return to God's law. Ezra led them to seek God's face and rebuild their relationship with God. This reminds us that repentance is an important element in theology, and that we should recognize our sins and be willing to reform and return to God's ways.

Sanctifying God: In Ezra 10, the Israelites realized that their mixed marriages were a defilement of God's holiness, and they decided to divorce and set apart the foreigners. This reminds us that it is our Godly mission to sanctify God, and that we should turn away from sin and live a life that is pleasing to God.

God's Love and Forgiveness: In Ezra 10, God was willing to forgive the sins of the people of Israel after they repented. This shows that God's love is infinite and that He is willing to forgive our sins if we truly repent. God's love and forgiveness of sins are important truths in our faith.

Theological gains:

The Importance of Repentance: Ezra 10 teaches us that repentance is an indispensable element of theology. When we become aware of our sins, we should repent sincerely and return to God's ways.

Sanctifying God: God's people should live their lives sanctified for God, turn away from sin, and live a life that glorifies God.

God's Love and Forgiveness: God's love is limitless, and He is willing to forgive our sins if we truly repent.

Let us thank God for His love and grace and find comfort and hope in God's forgiveness of sins.

Overall, Ezra 10 teaches us the importance of repentance and reform, sanctification for God, and faith in God's love and forgiveness of sins. These theologies will help us continue to grow in our faith, grow closer to God, and live out our love and devotion to God. The book of Ezra is part of the Hebrew Bible and the Old Christian Testament. It describes the return of Jews from exile to Babylon to Jerusalem, the rebuilding of the temple, and the resumption of worship in Jerusalem. While the book of Ezra may have a variety of difficult questions to answer, here are some of the more controversial among scholars and theologians:

1. Who is the author of the book of Ezra? While the book is traditionally attributed to Ezra, some scholars believe that it was written by multiple authors or edited over time.
2. When was the book of Ezra written? Scholars do not agree on when the book was written. Some think it is



It was written in the 5th century BC, while others believe it was written later, probably in the 3rd century BC.

3. What is the purpose of the book of Ezra? Some scholars believe that the book was intended to facilitate the rebuilding of the temple and the resumption of Jewish worship in Jerusalem, while others believe that it was intended to demonstrate the legitimacy of Ezra's priestly family.

4. How should we understand Ezra's role in the book? While Ezra is often portrayed as a hero, some scholars question his actions, particularly his forcing Jewish men to divorce 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 borders between different religious and cultural groups, and the tensions that can arise when these borders are crossed.

While there may be no definitive answers to these questions, they provide avenues for further exploration and reflection on the meaning and importance of the book of Ezra.