

THE GOOD HAND OF OUR GOD IS UPON US

A Study of Ezra & Esther

Big Picture & Class Outline (Chronological Study)

- First Exile Expedition: Temple from Ruins (Ezra 1-6).
- Back in Persia: Everyone almost Dies (Esther).
- Second Exile Expedition: A Return to the Law (Ezra 7-10).

Why were the Israelites not allowed to intermarry with the nations surrounding Israel?

- Israel was called to be a “holy race” (Genesis 28:14; Exodus 19:6; Malachi 2:15).
- Israel was called to be a “holy seed” (Isaiah 6:13).
- Therefore, Israel was not permitted to intermarry with the pagan nations surrounding the land of Israel (Exodus 34:11-16; Deut. 7:1-4).
- Divorce was rampant amongst the Israelites. In Malachi 2:16, God says he hates divorce. The verses 10-16 God notes how the men of Israel are actually divorcing their Jewish wives in order to take pagan wives.
- What happened to the divorced pagan wives and their children? We’re not fully sure. Most likely, they returned to their families.

Lesson 11 – Ezra 9-10

The people rebel against God and repent in fear (9-10).

- I. Ezra mourns the sin of Israel (9).
 - A. Ezra is told news of Israel’s failure to be set apart to God (9:1-2).

- B. Ezra mourns and confesses Israel's sin (9:3-14; Compare Nehemiah 13:23-31).
- C. Ezra recognizes God's righteousness and Israel's guilt (9:15).
- II. Israel mourns their sin and renews the covenant (10).
- A. Someone encourages Ezra to lead them in repentance and covenant renewal (10:1-4).
- B. Ezra arises to delegate the call to covenant renewal and then withdraws to mourn (10:5-9).
- C. Ezra calls on Israel to repent and to be set apart to God (10:10-14).
- D. Ezra and the leaders judge all the men who married pagan wives (10:15-17).
- E. Ezra lists the men who repent of their sins (10:18-44).

So What?

- God's Word brings reform by highlighting evil works and by calling for holiness. We should learn to be a people who tremble at the Words of God.
- We must learn to confess our sin and to mourn over the grossness of our sin (James 4:9). It is right to repent of our sin.
- Unrepentant sinners are excluded (Matthew 18:16-17). Repentant sinners are restored (Matthew 18:15).
- We are called to live a life set apart to God as well