



# EZRA 8-10

## PROBLEMS SMALL & BIG

This week we combine chapters 8 & 9 in our study. There is a common thread running through these two chapters, problems. And, such is life. There are problems we deal with every day. Some of them are small, such as not being able to find something. Others can be very large and heartbreaking, such as trouble in the family, health issues, spiritual problems.

**Chapter 8** - This chapter identifies the people who returned with Ezra to Jerusalem (vs. 1-14)

Two initial problems arose:

- (1) There were no Levites among them (v. 17)
  - (2) There was a need for protection from the enemies
- Israel was carrying a large amount of silver and gold (vs. 26-27)
  - Without armed protection, they were open to attacks and ambushes (v. 31)
  - Ezra was "ashamed" to ask King Artaxerxes for troops. Why?

Ezra calls for a fast to humble themselves and seek the Lord's protection (v. 21)

- The call was made to bring some Levites
- They all reach Jerusalem safely, the treasures are placed in the temple
- A large sacrifice is offered to God
- The King's edict is given to the rulers in the area

### Chapter 9

Word is brought to Ezra that the people in the land had intermarried with the nations around them.

- This included Levites, Priests, Princes and Rulers
- This was a violation of Deut 7:3-4
- Some were divorcing their Jewish wives to marry foreign women (Malachai 2:13-16)

**This is referred to as:**  
Abomination (1)  
Unfaithfulness (2)  
Holy race was polluted (2)

#### Ezra's Reaction (9:2-3)

- Tore his clothes
- Pulled the hair out of his head and beard
- Sat down appalled

During the evening prayer (v. 5)

- Ezra was ashamed to look heavenward (v. 6)
- Ezra did not separate himself from the sins of others (v. 10)
- Recognized God's view on the matter (vs. 12-15)

#### The Way Back to God Involves

- Realization: Confession & prayer
- Repentance: Determination to do right
- Return: Carrying out steps to do right

### Chapter 10

- God demands repentance (2 Pet. 3:9; Luke 13:3)
- 3 R's of repentance: Remember, Return, Repeat
- Look at 2 Corinthians 7:9-10

*Did the returned exiles keep their repentance? (Neh. 13)*