

## EZRA and NEHEMIAH

### Ezra 9-10

### Lesson 7

1. Compare Ezra 9:1-2 with Exodus 34:11-16. Should we be surprised at the results reported in Ezra? What dangers did this situation present to the nation? What lessons can be learned today from this?
2. Who brought the news to Ezra? Who did these men say were largely responsible for this? Why do you think they realized the problem at this time (see 7:10, 7:25)?
3. How did Ezra react to the situation? Compare this to how Nehemiah reacted to a similar situation (see Neh. 13:23-25).
4. In Ezra's prayer in 9:5-15, list examples of the following:
  - a. Suffering of God's people and why they suffered
  - b. God's Mercy
  - c. Guilt of God's people
5. In his prayer, does Ezra offer any reason for the people's sin?
6. How do the people react to Ezra's prayer? What did they propose to Ezra? How effective was Ezra's leadership in getting the people to do what was right? How would you characterize Ezra's leadership (see 7:10)?
7. What did Ezra do when he arose from prayer? Where did he get the authority to issue the decree of 10:7-8 (see 7:26)? Who are the "they" of 10:7?
8. How did the people respond to the decree? (Note verse 9 – This is late in the year and probably equivalent to our December). What were the conditions when the people gathered?
9. What did Ezra tell the people to do? How did the people respond? Was everyone in agreement? Was this the right thing to do? (see Deut. 24:1)
10. How long did it take Ezra and the other leaders to examine this matter in detail? (see 10:16-17). What does this say about the magnitude of the problem? Were the priests less likely to be guilty of this than others?