

Marriage, Home, and Family

Divorce in Ezra

What Happened?

- Israelites have married outside the covenant. Ezra 9.1-2
- This is about religion, not race
- Ezra grieves, confesses, repents, Ezra 9.3-9.15
- A solution is proposed: 10.1-5
- The solution is enacted: 10.6-19

- A list of offenders is provided: 10.20-44

When did it happen?

- The events of Ezra 9-10 occur approximately 458 B.C.
- The captivity happened in 586 B.C.
- Permission to return to the land was given around 539 B.C.
- The temple was completed in 516 B.C.
- The events of Ezra 4.1-3 happened about 536 B.C.
- So, within 60 years of the completion of the temple

Why did it happen?

- IOW, given the Biblical importance of marriage, why is this divorce approved?
- And it appears to have the full support of Ezra, the people, and the Law (Deut. 7.1-6; Ex. 34.12-16
- 9.7-15
- 10.1-3; 5

- It happened because the purity of the Hebrew race was threatened
- 9.1-2; 10-12
- This is critical, because the line of the Messiah is at stake

What does this mean for the Church?

- It makes us realize how much sin complicates life and decision making.
- It forces us to realize that sin is not just a human issue: there are children who are victims, but disobeying God dishonors Him.

- Covenant people (the saved) should not marry those outside the covenant (unsaved). I Corinthians 7.39
- But, when both partners were unsaved, and then one got saved, that marriage should continue. I Corinthians 7.12-15
- And, there is a potentially positive effect on the unbeliever. I Cor. 7.14, 16