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Lighthouse Bible Church

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Title: Less than our iniquities deserve

Ezra 9:1-15

Remember:

- **Ezra is part of a second group that left Babylon for Jerusalem**
- **Decades between the first group and the second**

The second group arrived to see others in mixed marriages, a direct violation to God's law (Ezra 9:1-2). Even princes and rulers were engaging in them — leadership, no doubt.

These marriages served to pull the Israelites away from the same God that had just before delivered them from persecution.

Exodus 34:8-16

**There's a long precedent to this, given
their history: Deuteronomy 7:1-8**

**Solomon, also a leader, struggled with
this too: 1 Kings 11:1-12**

Nehemiah 13:23-31

God has an extraordinarily high view of marriage, and we should too.

Matthew 19:2-9

Mark 10:1-12

1 Corinthians 7:8-17

Malachi 2:14-16

**A distraught Ezra (Ezra 9:7-9)
acknowledged the sins of his
contemporaries and their fathers —
think of fathers as ancestors more
generally.**

**God referenced His covenant and how
would honor if the Israelites
acknowledged their sin: Leviticus
26:36-46**

Psalm 106:6-10

Jeremiah did this: Jeremiah 14:19-22

**As wayward as they became, God
always promised the Israelites a
remnant, and Ezra acknowledged that
He did so here (Ezra 9:8).**

God never made a full end of them:

- **Jeremiah 5:16-19**
- **Ezekiel 11:13-20**
- **Hosea 11:5-12**

Ezra acknowledged that God's treatment of the guilty Israelites was less than the punishment due them (Ezra 9:13-15). He showed grace to them.

**Keep in mind that God has also
punished us less than our iniquities
deserve, too.**

Psalm 103:8-18

Micah 7:18-20

Romans 6:17-23

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

By engaging in mixed marriages, the Israelites clearly strayed away from the laws and statutes God provided them.

**Even then, God showed them grace —
and us, too in some very significant
ways. Show grace in our lives, which
will point folks to the God of all grace.**

Don't think your marriage must end if you're already in one with an unbeliever. Spouses + kids have benefits being associated with you. Pray earnestly for them.

These mixed marriages end in chapter 10, and Ezra has the Israelites do it a certain way, which we'll address next week.