

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church Sunday Worship Experience

**Pastor W. Golden Carmon
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4/11/2021



Apostle's Creed

I believe in God The Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth
And in Jesus Christ His Only Son Our LORD
Who was conceived by The Holy Spirit, born of The Virgin Mary
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried
On the 3rd day He arose from the dead, He ascended into Heaven
And sits on the right hand of GOD The Father Almighty
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead
I believe in The Holy Spirit, The Church Universal,
The Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body, and life everlasting

- **AMEN**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

04/11/2021

Ezra: Faith in Action

Preacher

Ezra 10:1-12

Section Review

- **Prophets of Restoration**
 - **4/4/2021 – Isaiah 53:4-11**
 - Prophetic word from Isaiah on the suffering servant who would ultimately save humanity from their sins

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Background

- The events in Ezra take place near the end of Judah's Babylonian exile under King Cyrus of Persia, who was moved by God to allow his people to return to Israel after the 1st 50 years (Ezra 1:1-4)
- Zerubbabel led the 1st wave of exiles (42,000+) back to Israel and began the rebuilding of the Temple (Ezra 2 – 6), followed by Ezra and finally by Nehemiah
- Ezra was a priest and not a prophet in the traditional sense, but was a serious scribe of the Torah and was dedicated to its restoration and adherence by the people upon their return (Ezra 7:10)
- Inter-racial/ethnic marriage was traditionally forbidden by the Israelites in the OT for fear that they would be influenced and ensnared by pagan religious practice (Exodus 34:16; Deuteronomy 7:1-6; 12:29-30)
- Pagan marriages was a major factor in the fall of Israel and Judah – particularly by it's kings (1 Kings 11:2)

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Lesson Text

Ezra 10:1-4 (NKJV)

Confession of Improper Marriages



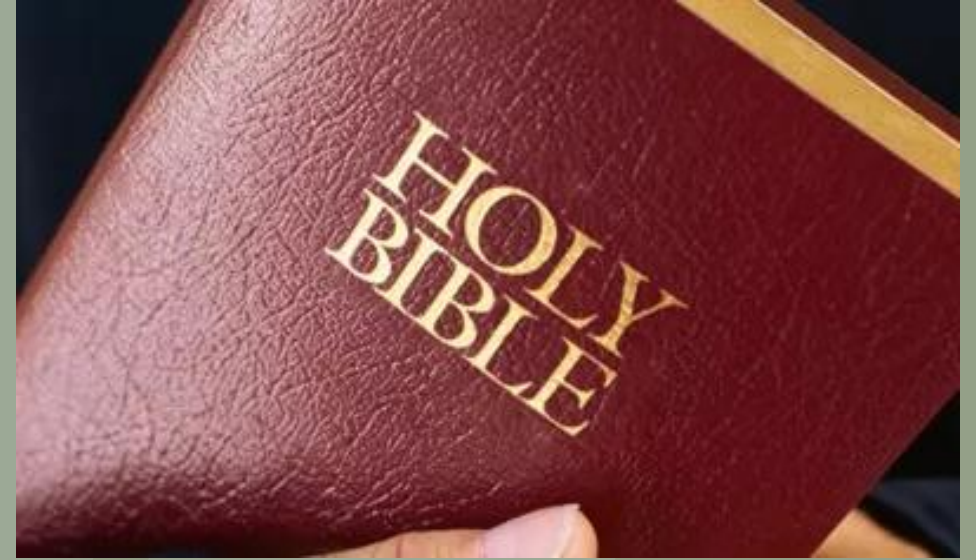
10 Now while Ezra was praying, and while he was confessing, weeping, and bowing down before the house of God, a very large assembly of men, women, and children gathered to him from Israel; for the people wept very bitterly. ² And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, *one* of the sons of Elam, spoke up and said to Ezra, “We have trespassed^[a] against our God, and have taken pagan wives from the peoples of the land; yet now there is hope in Israel in spite of this. ³ Now therefore, let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and those who have been born to them, according to the advice of my master and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law. ⁴ Arise, for *this matter is your responsibility*. We also *are* with you. Be of good courage, and do *it*.”

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Lesson Text

Ezra 10:5-6 (NKJV)

Confession of Improper Marriages



⁵ Then Ezra arose, and made the leaders of the priests, the Levites, and all Israel swear an oath that they would do according to this word. So they swore an oath.

⁶ Then Ezra rose up from before the house of God, and went into the chamber of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib; and when he came there, he ate no bread and drank no water, for he mourned because of the guilt of those from the captivity.

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Lesson Text

Ezra 10:7-8 (NKJV)

Confession of Improper Marriages



⁷ And they issued a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the descendants of the captivity, that they must gather at Jerusalem, ⁸ and that whoever would not come within three days, according to the instructions of the leaders and elders, all his property would be confiscated, and he himself would be separated from the assembly of those from the captivity.

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Lesson Text

Ezra 10:9-12 (NKJV)

Confession of Improper Marriages



⁹ So all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered at Jerusalem within three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth of the month; and all the people sat in the open square of the house of God, trembling because of this matter and because of heavy rain. ¹⁰ Then Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, “You have ^[b]transgressed and ^[c]have taken pagan wives, adding to the guilt of Israel. ¹¹ Now therefore, make confession to the Lord God of your fathers, and do His will; separate yourselves from the peoples of the land, and from the pagan wives.” ¹² Then all the assembly answered and said with a loud voice, “Yes! As you have said, so we must do.”

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Commentary: Steps to Repentance

1. Regret, Guilt, Shame

God does not expect us to LIVE with any of these emotions, as the prolongment of them leads to emotional and physical damage to the one that harbors them without redress.

2. Confession

To openly admit wrongdoing – as to the specific charge against you is a major indicator that you have come to terms with the gravity of your sin, transgression or iniquity.

Do you except your full responsibility or do you try to explain it away?

3. Take action to Restore or Reconcile

Depending on the issue, some things can be restored, and some things need to be reconciled.

Reconciliation often takes more work because it may require changes to mindset, procedures, and then practices so you may avoid the issues that may arise again in restoration

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My Guiding Principles of Biblical Interpretation

- Never read a Bible verse in isolation without understanding historical and situational context
- **DESCRIPTIVE** Scripture is not always **PRESCRIPTIVE** Scripture
 - Not every word in Scripture is for you or for your time
- If there's an "apparent" contradiction between OT and NT texts... **CHOOSE**
NT interpretation:
 - DIETARY LAWS
 - CEREMONIAL LAWS
 - RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES
 - MARRIAGE LAWS
- Where there is consistency, the Scripture as universally applicable
- Where Scripture is silent: get knowledge, understanding, and wisdom, apply logic, reason and common sense

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Commentary: Notable OT Mixed Marriages

- Joseph, son of Jacob married Asenath the Egyptian
- Moses married Zipporah the Midianite/Cushite
- Salmon married Rahab the harlot is one of Jesus' descendants
- Boaz married Ruth the Moabite who was faithful to Naomi
- God commanded Israelite men – should they want to marry a woman of a conquered land, to bring them to their homes, shave their heads and fingernails and allow her to mourn her parents.
(Deuteronomy 21:10 – 14)

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Commentary: NT teachings on divorce

■ Matthew 19:1-12

- Verse 9: “I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

■ 1 Corinthians 7:10-16

¹⁰ To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. ¹¹ But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be **reconciled** to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

¹² To the rest I say this (**I, not the Lord**): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is **willing to live** with him, he must not divorce her. ¹³ And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is **willing to live** with her, she must not divorce him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

¹⁵ But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. ¹⁶ **How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?**

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Commentary: Common Sense Application

- Willing to live does not include abuse (physical, verbal, mental)
- Willing to live does not include addictions that lead to behaviors that grossly affect families – e.g. gambling addictions that lead to dire financial security in the household
- Willing to live does not include those who refuse to restore or reconcile to make the situation livable. – e.g. won't seek counseling – spiritual, professional when issues are obvious.
- **THERE ARE MANY WAYS A SPOUSE “LEAVES” A MARRIAGE**

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Scripture References

Refer to Slides



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Church School Creed & Benediction

CREED

Our Church School must grow & grow
And we must help to make it so
Every member a **Christian**
Every Christian a **worker**
Every worker **trained**
A worker that **will not be ashamed**
This we ask in Jesus' name

-AMEN

BENEDICTION

We have come
We have studied
We have learned
So until our next coming together
To study God's word
May His rich blessings reside with you
And may His Grace be eternally yours

-AMEN