

# Ezra 10:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the people are many, and it is a time of much rain, and we are not able to stand without, neither is this a work of one day or two: for we are many that have transgressed in this thing.

## Analysis

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**But the people are many, and it is a time of much rain**—the congregation acknowledges practical obstacles to immediate resolution. The Hebrew geshem rav (גֵּשֶׁם רַב, 'much rain') refers to the winter rainy season (Kislev, December-January), making outdoor assemblies impossible and travel difficult.

**Neither is this a work of one day or two**—the community recognizes the magnitude of covenant violation. The phrase mela'kah yom-echad emphasizes that 113 cases of intermarriage (vv. 18-43) require careful adjudication, not hasty judgment. **For we are many that have transgressed** (harbinu liph'sha ba-davar hazeh)—the verb pasha means 'to rebel,' indicating willful covenant violation, not mere mistake. The confession demonstrates corporate responsibility.

## Historical Context

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The rainy season in Palestine runs from October through March, with heaviest rainfall in December-January. Outdoor assemblies during this period would be impractical and dangerous. The timeline shows this assembly occurred in the ninth month (Kislev, v. 9), during peak rainy season. The three-month investigation (tenth month to first month, vv. 16-17) extended through winter, allowing proper deliberation rather than mob justice.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does the people's acknowledgment of practical obstacles demonstrate wisdom in balancing zeal with prudence?
2. What does the careful three-month process teach about addressing sin in the church—avoiding both laxity and hasty judgment?
3. How should Christian leaders balance the urgency of addressing sin with the need for due process and individual care?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵת מָתָּה רַעַם יְמִינָה אֶבֶן  
But the people are many and it is a time of much rain H369  
H61 H5971 H7227 H6256 H1653

לֹא וְמִלְאָכֵה הַבָּחָר וְלֹא וְמִלְאָכֵה הַבָּחָר  
and we are not able to stand without neither is this a work day H3808 H3117  
H3581 H5975 H2351 H4399

לְפָשָׁע עַל אֶפְקָד לְשָׁנָה יְמִינָה הַרְבָּה יְמִינָה  
of one or two for we are many that have transgressed H6586  
H259 H8147 H3588 H7235

בְּזַבְּרָה פְּזַבְּרָה  
in this thing H2088  
H1697