

# 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 (גֶּשֶׁם 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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אָב ל	הָעָם	רַב	וְהֵעִתָּה	גֶּשֶׁמַּיִם	וְאֵין	H369
But	the people	are many	and it is a time	of much rain		
H61	H5971	H7227	H6256	H1653		
כֹּחַ	לָעֹמֵד	בְּחַוֵּץ	וְהִמְלֵאכָה	לֹא	לִי וָיוֹם	H3808
and we are not able	to stand	without	neither is this a work		day	
H3581	H5975	H2351	H4399		H3117	
אֶחָד	וְלֹא	לְשָׁנִים	כִּי	הַרְבֵּי יֵנוּ	לְפָשׁוּ עַ	
of one		or two	for we are many	that have transgressed		
H259	H3808	H8147	H7235	H6586		
בְּדָבָר	הַזֶּה:					
in this thing						
H1697	H2088					