

# Ezra 10:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee: we also will be with thee: be of good courage, and do it.

## Analysis

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**Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee: we also will be with thee: be of good courage, and do it.** Shecaniah issues four imperatives to Ezra: arise (qum), recognize responsibility (aleikha haddavar, "upon you is the matter"), take courage (chazaq), and execute (aseh). This pattern appears when God commissions leaders for difficult tasks (Joshua 1:6-9, Haggai 2:4). The community recognizes that spiritual crisis requires decisive leadership, not endless deliberation.

The phrase "**this matter belongeth unto thee**" acknowledges Ezra's unique authority as scribe and priest. Though Shecaniah proposed the solution, implementing it required Ezra's teaching authority and governmental position. The promise "**we also will be with thee**" offers corporate support for what would be intensely unpopular action. Leaders facing necessary but difficult decisions need such backing from the faithful remnant.

The command "**be of good courage**" (chazaq) implies that cowardice would be the natural temptation. Dismantling families, facing widespread anger, and implementing mass divorce proceedings would require moral fortitude. This courage isn't psychological self-confidence but faith that obedience to God's law supersedes approval from people. Leadership often demands unpopular obedience.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern governance typically concentrated authority in a single leader who could make binding decisions. Ezra held dual authority as Persian-appointed governor and Torah scribe (Ezra 7:12-26), giving him both civil and religious jurisdiction. However, even with such authority, implementing divorce proceedings affecting over 100 families (Ezra 10:18-44) required communal support.

The situation was unprecedented. No previous biblical instance involved wholesale dissolution of existing marriages. The closest parallel was Israel's refusal to marry Canaanites before entering the land. Now the community faced undoing marriages that had already occurred, some producing children. This required interpreting Torah principles in novel circumstances—precisely the kind of decision requiring scribal expertise like Ezra possessed.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does the community's promise "we will be with thee" teach about the necessity of supporting godly leaders in difficult decisions?
2. How does the call to "be of good courage" distinguish biblical courage (faith-based obedience) from worldly confidence?
3. When have you faced a decision where doing right required courage to face disapproval and opposition?

## Interlinear Text

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עַל יְהוָה תִּאֱבֹךְ חִנּוּ כִּי־בְּרִית־עָלָיו

**Arise**

H3588

H5921

**for this matter**

H1697

H587

H5973

לְעַל־יְהוָה

תִּשְׁעַל:

**belongeth unto thee we also will be with thee be of good courage**

H2388

**and do**

H6213

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Chronicles 28:10** (Parallel theme): Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it.

**Hebrews 10:24** (Good): And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

**Ecclesiastes 9:10** (Parallel theme): Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

**1 Chronicles 22:19** (Resurrection): Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the LORD.

**Mark 13:34** (Parallel theme): For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

**1 Chronicles 22:16** (Resurrection): Of the gold, the silver, and the brass, and the iron, there is no number. Arise therefore, and be doing, and the LORD be with thee.

**1 Chronicles 28:21** (Parallel theme): And, behold, the courses of the priests and the Levites, even they shall be with thee for all the service of the house of God: and there shall be with thee for all manner of workmanship every willing skilful

man, for any manner of service: also the princes and all the people will be wholly at thy commandment.

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