

# Ezra 9:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice.

## Analysis

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The gathering: 'Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away.' The phrase 'trembled at the words of God' describes those who take Scripture seriously with appropriate fear. These gathered supporters felt proper horror at covenant violation. Their assembly around Ezra demonstrates that spiritual leadership attracts those with similar godly values. The contrast 'those that had been carried away' (returned exiles) had committed this sin—even those who should know better from exile experience.

## Historical Context

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The gathering around grieving Ezra created visible division between those who trembled at God's word and those comfortable with compromise. This separation was necessary for reformation. The term 'trembled' echoes Isaiah 66:2's commendation of those who 'tremble at my word.' These faithful few provided base for reform movement. Their presence encouraged Ezra and eventually sparked broader repentance (Ezra 10:1). Corporate sin requires a righteous remnant catalyzing reformation.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the gathering of those who 'trembled at God's words' demonstrate that serious Scripture adherence attracts like-minded believers?
2. What does the necessary separation between compromisers and reformers teach about inevitable division when addressing corporate sin?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵלֵּי י' H413	יֵאָסְפוּ ו' H622	כָּל ל' H3605	חִידָה H2730	בְּדִבְרֵי י' H1697
	Then were assembled		unto me every one that trembled	at the words
אֱלֹהֵי H430	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל' H3478	עַל ל' H5921	מֵעַל H4604	
of the God	of Israel		because of the transgression	
הַגּוֹזֵל ה' H1473	וְאֲנִי H589	יָשָׁב ב' H3427	מְשׁוּמִים ׀ H8074	עַד לְמִנְחַת H5704
of those that had been carried away		and I sat	astonied	sacrifice
הָעֶרֶב: H6153				
until the evening				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezra 10:3** (Word): Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord,

and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.

**Isaiah 66:2** (Word): For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

**Exodus 29:39** (Parallel theme): The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even:

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