

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

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

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Study Questions

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

Additional Cross-References

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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