

Frauds that Follow

Ezra 2:59-70

Intro: In Ezra 2:1 we find the people setting out and in Ezra 2:70 we find the people settling in

Then we have a census and a record of patriarch, places and positions...each name representing one who was willing to move but yet we find a peculiar group of people at the close of the chapter

I. The Disowned People-v.59-60

- Babylonian provinces from where they came :
 - Tel-Melah-Salt Hill
 - Tel-Harsha-Wood Hill
 - Cherub-Angel
 - Addon-Stoney place
 - Immer-Lamb
- The Babylonian parents that they claimed-v.60..no connection with Israel ..possible people of Nethinim

A. They had been influenced

These people would have had to PROFESS Judaism in Babylon or they would not have been permitted to go... they would have had to be circumcised and profess Israel's God.

They had PROFESSED BUT NO PROOF

B. They had been inquisitive..what do we have to loose...what's in it for me

C. They Identified but was not recognized

II. The Defiled Priest-v.61-62

A. Name-v.61-took a more prominent name than to be named from the tribe of Levi

So they could take the inheritance-Numbers 27:8-11

Many today desire to make a name for themselves

B. Nuptial-took pagan wives-Ezra 10:18 &44

- They were excluded
- They were not allowed to exercise in priestly duties

2 Chronicles 29:34 (NKJV)...boredom

³⁴ But the priests were too few, so that they could not skin all the burnt offerings; therefore their brethren the Levites helped them until the work was ended and until the *other* priests had sanctified themselves, for the Levites were more **diligent** in sanctifying themselves than the priests.

Before the captivity

Jeremiah 5:18-31 (NKJV) ...blasphemous

¹⁸ "Nevertheless in those days," says the LORD, "I will not make a complete end of you.

¹⁹ And it will be when you say, 'Why does the LORD our God do all these *things* to us?' then you shall answer them, 'Just as you have forsaken Me and served foreign gods in your land, so you shall serve aliens in a land *that is* not yours.'

²⁰ "Declare this in the house of Jacob And proclaim it in Judah, saying,

²¹ 'Hear this now, O foolish people, Without understanding, Who have eyes and see not, And who have ears and hear not:

²² Do you not fear Me?' says the LORD. 'Will you not tremble at My presence, Who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea, By a

perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it? And though its waves toss to and fro, Yet they cannot prevail; Though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it.

²³ But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart; They have revolted and departed.

²⁴ They do not say in their heart, "Let us now fear the LORD our God, Who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season. He reserves for us the appointed weeks of the harvest."

²⁵ Your iniquities have turned these *things* away, And your sins have withheld good from you.

²⁶ 'For among My people are found wicked *men*; They lie in wait as one who sets snares; They set a trap; They catch men.

²⁷ As a cage is full of birds, So their houses *are* full of deceit. Therefore they have become great and grown rich.

²⁸ They have grown fat, they are sleek; Yes, they surpass the deeds of the wicked; They do not plead the cause, The cause of the fatherless; Yet they prosper, And the right of the needy they do not defend.

²⁹ Shall I not punish *them* for these *things*?' says the LORD. 'Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?'

³⁰ **"An astonishing and horrible thing Has been committed in the land:**

³¹ **The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?**

III. The Defined Purpose-v.64-70

A. Their Possessions-v.64-66..notice the horses in v.66

- Mules-v.66...cars...livestock..beast
- Money-v.69...cash...lively hood...bucks

B. Their Purpose-v.68...to erect the house of God

C. Their Potential-v.69..according to their ability

Verse 70 some of the people even though they came for the wrong reason they wound up finishing well.

PRETENDERS: Annanias and Sapphira

Paul warned us: 2 Timothy 3:13-14 (NKJV)

¹³ **But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse**, deceiving and being deceived.

¹⁴ **But you must** continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,

Titus 1:10-16 (NKJV)

¹⁰ For there are many **insubordinate**, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

¹¹ whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

¹² One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans *are* always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,

¹⁴ not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.

¹⁵ To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.

¹⁶ **They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.**

Matt. 13...wheat and tares can't tell the difference until harvest time...