



'My Response' Sermon Series  
*Divine Lessons from the Restoration Era – Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*

# THE END TIMES and PURIFICATION

*"I am ready to be purified."*

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INTRO:

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The book of Ezra was concluded with a very strong and important commitment of God's people who were ready for **purification without any delay!** Ezra was someone who always prepared his heart to seek, to do, and to teach the Word of God. And as the result, the flame of his zeal toward the Word of God had burnt everyone to love God as well. **Purification** is not an easy nor comfort process for anyone. But that is **how** the Word of God will work in the life of believers. All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction** in **righteousness**, that the man of God may be **complete**, thoroughly equipped for every good work *2Tim.3:16-17*.

So, let's get ready to look upon the purification process that happened **nationally** in the days of Ezra during that restoration era. And let's brace ourselves to the fire of purification at the end times. And above it all, let's give a **good response** for the unique and tailored (smart, fitted, well cut) purification process that God will do in the life of His beloved people.

## THE HOLY SEED

**EZRA 9** <sup>1</sup>When these things were done, the leaders came to me, saying, “The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have **not separated themselves** from the peoples of the lands, with respect to the abominations of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. <sup>2</sup>For they have taken some of their daughters *as wives* for themselves and their sons, so that **the holy seed is mixed** with the peoples of *those* lands. Indeed, the hand of the leaders and rulers has been foremost in this trespass.”



Somehow, there was a problem when God’s people commenced a new life after the exile. Some of them were aware with the problem but they **did not know** nor **had no power** to fix that one! The problem was not only about intermarriage with pagan wives but more than that: **the holy seed was in danger!** The ‘birds’ keep eating the holy seed, but they did not have any power to shoo that birds, until Ezra came and they let him know about the problem.

Back to last Sunday about “**The 3 Steps to Go to the Next Level**”, without the power of God’s word, people may **only know** the problem, they may **only aware** there is something wrong with their life, but they just stopped there and go nowhere. **Praise God!** Ezra was there, with the power of God’s Word with him, so that they were together able to move forward to the next level. Not only diagnose the problem, but also cure it completely!

### **What was the main problem they had? THE HOLY SEED!**

Holiness is **the highest calling** for all believers. Paul wrote: “For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness *1Thes.4:7.*” Peter also wrote: As He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy *1Pet.1:15-16.*” And indeed, this is also **the main target** for the devil **to attack!** Praise God, that Ezra then taught believers how to tackle that problem.

Holiness is explained as a **seed**. The Word of God is a seed *Luk.8:11.* Believers are born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through

the word of God which lives and abides forever *1Pet.1:23*. The seed is **powerful**, but it also start with small size so that we can experience how the grace of God will involve us to do the amazing growth!

We must always **be careful** with the birds, otherwise the holy seed will be mixed with the uncleanness and then have no effect!

## TREMbled AT THE WORDS

*Do not extinguish the Spirit!*

**EZRA 9** <sup>3</sup> So when I heard this thing, I tore my garment and my robe, and plucked out some of the hair of my head and beard, and sat down astonished. <sup>4</sup> Then **everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel assembled to me**, because of the transgression of those who had been carried away captive, and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice.

## PHINEHAS

**NUMBERS 25** <sup>7</sup> Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, **saw it**, he **rose** from among the congregation and **took** a javelin in his hand; <sup>8</sup> and he **went after** the man of Israel into the tent and **thrust** both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore say, 'Behold, I give to him **My covenant of peace**; <sup>13</sup> and it shall be to him and his descendants after him **a covenant of an everlasting priesthood**, because he was **zealous for his God**, and made atonement for the children of Israel.' "

That was something unusual happened! The problem already happened for years, but **no one reacted** just like Ezra!

The heart of Ezra was just so **meek** so that he could **feel** the heart of God as well! Ezra tore his garment, and his robe, he plucked out his hair and beard, and sat down astonished. While other might underestimate that condition, Ezra took it as serious as how God saw that! Indeed, God is always looking for believers with that same heart!

The Bible also made a special note about Phinehas, the super great grandfather of Ezra *Ezr.7:1-5*! While all people did not give any response for the problem that hurt the heart of God, Phinehas acted so valiantly for the sake of God! And truly God is looking for everyone who still have a good response toward the Word of God.

**2Chron.16:9** For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

The Holy Spirit will stir our heart, and the same Holy Spirit will also make us tremble at His words. How would we response to that? Paul wrote: Do not quench / extinguish the Spirit *1Thes.5:19*.

## REBUKE & REVIVAL

**EZRA 10** Now while Ezra was **praying**, and while he was **confessing**, **weeping**, and **bowing down** before the house of God, **a very large assembly** of men, women, and children gathered to him from Israel; for **the people wept very bitterly**.

<sup>2</sup> And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, *one* of the sons of Elam, spoke up and said to Ezra, “We have trespassed against our God, and have taken pagan wives from the peoples of the land; yet now **there is hope** in Israel in spite of this.

**EZRA 10** <sup>3</sup> Now therefore, let us **make a covenant** with our God to put away all these wives and those who have been born to them, **according to the advice** of my master and of those **who tremble at the commandment of our God**; and **let it be done according to the law**.

<sup>4</sup> Arise, for *this matter is your responsibility*. We also are with you. Be of good courage, and do *it*.”

The work of the Holy Spirit then went bigger and bigger until **a very large assembly** of people gathered with Ezra. The **fire of revival** was ignited through Ezra and then it burnt up more people around him that tremble together at the Word of God, and then it drew more and more people closer to the movement of crying, they wept very bitterly, and indeed it was the mighty work of the Holy Spirit that rebuke people while at the same time prepared them for **the great revival!**

And a person named Shechaniah responded very well to what was happening with them, and he shouted out loud, acknowledged his sin, and he declared **a hope!** He responded wonderfully and encouraged people around him to make the same response. **Your response toward God’s heart will bless other people!**

It is always the continuous work of the Holy Spirit to **convict** the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment *Jn.16:8* so that believers may always walk in the **true holiness!**

## 3 MONTHS OF PURIFICATION

Report

Tore the  
Robe

Trembled  
& Crying

Arise &  
Action

**EZRA 10** <sup>16</sup> Then the descendants of the captivity did so. And Ezra the priest, *with* certain heads of the fathers' households, were set apart by the fathers' households, each of them by name; and they **sat down** on the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter. <sup>17</sup> By the first day of the first month they finished *questioning* all the men who had taken pagan wives.

<sup>19</sup> And they gave their promise that they would **put away their wives**; and being guilty, they presented a ram of the flock as their trespass offering.

## MATTHEW 5

<sup>29</sup> If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is **more profitable for you** that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is **more profitable for you** that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

**Can you imagine if your pastor ask your sins one by one? And then keep questioning about your commitment and also the practical things about the solutions!**

It was the process that happened in the days of Ezra, and it is called the **purification process**! It took about 3 months to finish questioning every single men who had taken pagan wives! It must be a very difficult for them to acknowledge sins and even more difficult to leave it away. But the purification process will never happen if people just want to it half way!

At the Old Testament, somehow divorce was let to be happened, but Jesus said: "Because of the hardness of your hearts, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives, but **from the beginning it was not so** *Mat.19:8*." What the believers must follow in the setting of living in the grace of Christ in the New Testament era is this:

**1Cor.7** <sup>12</sup> If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. <sup>13</sup> And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. <sup>14</sup> For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. <sup>15</sup> But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. <sup>16</sup> For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether

**you will save your wife?**

## “I AM READY TO BE PURIFIED.”

**DANIEL 12** <sup>9</sup> And he said, “Go *your way*, Daniel, for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end. <sup>10</sup> Many shall be **purified, made white, and refined**, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord tests the hearts. *Pro.17:3*

I will turn My hand against you, And thoroughly purge away your dross, And take away all your alloy. *Isa.1:28*

But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like launderers’ soap. *Mal.3:2*

He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness. *Mal.3:3*

**2Timothy 3** <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**Amsal 17:3** Kui adalah untuk melebur perak dan perapian untuk melebur emas, tetapi Tuhanlah yang menguji hati.

**Yesaya 1:28** Tetapi orang-orang yang memberontak dan orang-orang berdosa akan dihancurkan bersama, dan orang-orang yang meninggalkan TUHAN akan habis lenyap.

**Maleakhi 3:2** Siapakah yang dapat tahan akan hari kedatangan-Nya? Dan siapakah yang dapat tetap berdiri, apabila Ia menampakkan diri? Sebab Ia seperti api tukang pemurni logam dan seperti sabun tukang penatu.

**3** Ia akan duduk seperti orang yang memurnikan dan mentahirkan perak; dan Ia mentahirkan orang Lewi, menyucikan mereka seperti emas dan seperti perak, supaya mereka menjadi orang-orang yang mempersembahkan korban yang benar kepada TUHAN.

For as often as  
you eat this  
bread and drink  
this cup, you  
proclaim the  
Lord's death till  
He comes.  
*1Cor.11:26*



## 1CORINTHIANS 11:23-25

... The Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, **“Take, eat; This is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”**

In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, **“This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”**

**John 15:4-5, 1Corinthians 11:23-25, 1Corinthians 10:16-17**

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

... The Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; This is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

***The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?***

In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

***The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?***



**GOD BLESS YOU!**

*HAVE A BLESSED WEEK WITH JESUS*

See You Next Sunday!