

**We Have Trespassed...
Yet Now There Is Hope**

Ezra 10:1-4

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¹ 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. ² And Shecaniah

the Levite, one of the sons of Elai, stood up and said

to Ezra, "We have trespassed against our God, ... taken

pagan wives, and we are now in a great iniquity before is

hope in Israel in spite of this... we have made a

covetous heart, and we have not listened to the voice of our

master and of the Lord our God, to keep the commandment of our

God; and let it be done according to the law. ⁴ Arise, for this

matter is your responsibility. We also are with you. Be of

good courage, and do it."

The Hope for Israel...

- **Did Not...**

- Ignore & overlook problem before them
- Disregard work necessary to correct such
- Give up despite grimness of the situation

- **But Did...**

- See the present situation as temporary
- Recognize solution was found in God's law
- Demand commitment to required obedience

The Hope for Our Time...

- **Does Not...**

- Ignore & overlook severity of our problems
- Disregard work necessary to correct our sins
- See grimness of our situation as hopeless

- **But Does...**

- View our present situation as temporary
- Recognize our solution is found in God's word
- Demand commitment to require our obedience



**We Can Have Hope
Despite Past Wrong**

Hope

We Can Have Hope in Our Nation

- We live in troubled times of immorality, terrorism, disease, social division & financial loss
- Yet now there is real hope if we...
 - Teach the truth of God's word despite evil around us (**Phil. 2:12-16**)
 - Return to source of true security in righteousness (**Prov. 14:34; Prov. 11:11**; see example of Sodom - **Genesis 18**)
 - Regain abhorrence of sin (**2 Pet. 2:7; Psa. 119:127-128**)
 - Government returns to God's purpose (**Rom. 13:1-6**)
- As Christians, we must boldly stand for truth amidst opposition in a dark and wicked world

We Can Have Hope in Our Family

- Are we troubled by turmoil in the family?
 - Divorce, abuse, rebellion, alienation...
- Yet now there is still hope if...
 - Instill the rule: Permanence of marriage (**1 Cor. 7:10-11**)
 - Husbands show proper love & leadership (**Eph. 5:23-29**)
 - Wives exemplify godly character (**1 Pet. 3:1-6**)
 - Parents teach & discipline to instill truth (**Eph. 6:4**)
 - Children honor & obey in Lord (**Eph. 6:1-3**)
- The family is the basic unit to instill knowledge of truth and respect for authority

We Can Have Hope in Our Souls

- Are we in despair due to effect of sin? (**Lk. 15:13f**)
 - Nothing causes despair in our lives more than sin
- Yet now there is hope if we...
 - Go to Scripture for our learning & comfort (**Rom. 15:4**)
 - Come to self, see sin for what it is & go humbly to our Father for forgiveness (**Lk. 15:17-24**)
 - Purify our lives from sin (**1 Jn. 3:3**)
 - Come into Christ by means of His blood (**Eph. 2:11-16; Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3-4**)
 - Continue obeying all Christ teaches (**Matt. 28:18-20**)
- Our hope in Christ is despite past sins (**1 Tim. 1:16**)

A vibrant blue sky filled with fluffy white clouds. A bright rainbow arches across the center of the image, its colors ranging from red to violet. The overall scene is bright and uplifting.

**There Is Always Hope
Through Christ**