

The Jews Return

CHARACTERS: Shecaniah, Ezra. All

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Ezra 9 & 10

FK reading level: 5.7

Israel's Intermarriage with Pagans

EZRA: My God, I am ashamed and embarrassed to lift my face toward You, my God, because our iniquities are higher than our heads

ALL: and our guilt is as high as the heavens.

EZRA: Our guilt has been terrible.

ALL: Because of our sins we have been handed over to the sword, captivity, plundering, and open shame.

EZRA: Now You, our God have given us new life and light to our eyes.

ALL: Forgive us for intermarrying with people who practice detestable things.

EZRA: You, our God, have punished us less than our sins deserve and have allowed us to survive.

ALL: We should not have broken your commands.

ERZA: Lord God of Israel, You are righteous.

ALL: No one can stand in Your presence because of this.

SHECANIAH: We have been unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women from the surrounding peoples, but there is still hope for Israel in spite of this.

ALL: Let us therefore make a covenant before our God to send away all the foreign wives and their children

EZRA: Let it be done according to the law.

SHECANIAH: This matter is your responsibility, and we support you. Be strong and take action!"

EZRA: Make a confession to Yahweh the God of your fathers and do His will.

SHECANIAH: Separate yourselves from the surrounding peoples and your foreign wives.

ALL: Yes, we will do as you say!

.