

Israel's Unfaithfulness

by Chuck Smith

The sermon emphasizes the importance of separation from the world and confession of sin in order to please God and survive.

Duration: 25:04

Scripture: Ezra 9:10, Ezra 10:8-12

Topics: "Unfaithfulness"

Description

In this sermon, Pastor Chuck Smith addresses the issue of Israel's unfaithfulness to God. He begins by expressing his frustration and lack of words in response to their repeated disobedience. The people had forsaken God's commandments and returned to their sinful ways, despite being given a second chance. God had warned them about the corrupt and unclean nature of the land they were entering, and had instructed them not to intermarry with the people there. However, they disregarded these warnings and engaged in the same abominations as before. Ezra, the leader, prays and confesses their sins, weeping and casting himself down before God. The people are moved by a sense of guilt and join him in weeping.

Transcript

Oh, let the Son of God enfold you With His Spirit and His love Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul
Oh, let Him have the things that hold you And His Spirit and His love Will descend upon your life and make you whole
Welcome to The Word for Today The broadcast ministry of Pastor Chuck Smith Of Calvary Chapel, Costa Mesa, California
Pastor Chuck is currently leading us on a verse-by-verse venture Through the entire Bible
And on today's edition of The Word for Today We'll be continuing with Israel's unfaithfulness
As we pick up in Ezra, chapter 9, verse 10 As we follow along with Pastor Chuck Smith
And now, O our God, what shall we say after this?

Now we get the report Here they are, the leaders, the priests, the Levites The people, they are back doing the very same thing
For which the judgment of God came upon them What shall we say after this? God, I don't know what to say, I have no words
I'm just at that point of just total frustration For we have forsaken Your commandments
God, You gave us another chance In Your mercy and in Your grace You gave us another chance, a reviving
You brought back something that was dead You gave us a second chance And what have we done?

We've gone right back out And committed the same evils The same trespasses Which You have commanded by Your servants
the prophets Saying, the land unto which You go to possess Is an unclean

land With the filthiness of the people of the lands With their abominations Which have filled it from one end to another With their uncleanness God said, you're going into a corrupt hole The land is filled with filthiness and abominations Now, because of this, do not give your daughters to their sons Neither take their daughters unto your sons Nor seek their peace or their wealth forever That you may be strong and eat the good of the land And leave it for an inheritance to your children forever This is what You told us And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds And for our great trespass

Seeing that You have really punished us less Than our iniquities deserve And You have given us such deliverance as this And now that we should again break Your commandments And join in affinity with the people of these abominations Would You not be angry with us till You had consumed us So that there should be no remnant nor escaping God, You would be just in just wiping us out completely Not leaving a soul O Lord, God of Israel You are righteous For we remain yet escaped as it is this day Your hand of judgment has not yet fallen God, You're so good Not to have wiped us out completely already Behold, we are before Thee in our trespasses For we cannot stand before Thee because of this God, it's just, here we are And he's just sort of casting himself upon God at this point Not arguing, not

justifying himself Not saying, well Lord, you know Trying to give excuses Which we are so prone to do He just says, we're guilty God, we deserve whatever You send You have been good to us You haven't really punished us as much as we deserve The very fact that we are still existing Is a demonstration of the mercy and the grace of God The long suffering of God Patience of God But be sure of this God's judgment does not linger God is going to judge this nation Even as the sins of Sodom Rose up to heaven Until they forced God to destroy them So the sins of America have risen up unto heaven And the time is coming very soon When God is going to bring the nation down But I do believe That even as the angels came down to Sodom And delivered Lot out of the city Before the fiery wrath of God came

upon it That the Lord is going to descend from heaven With the voice of the archangel and the trump of God And we who are alive and remain Shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air And so shall we ever be with the Lord I believe that there is a hope for the child of God The hope of the rapture of the church And I believe that what is happening today Is something that should awaken every saint of God To realize time is short The time for judgment has surely come And even as when the angels were leading Lot out They said hurry, get out of here quickly We cannot destroy this place until you are out I believe the Lord is going to take quickly In a moment, in a twinkling of an eye His church out of this world And then shall God's judgment fall Jesus said Pray ye always that you'll be

accounted worthy To escape these things Talking about the judgment And to be standing before the Son of Man Now when Ezra had prayed And he had confessed weeping And casting himself down He began kneeling But he is now weeping And he just throws himself on his face before God There before the altar of God Casting himself down before the house of God There assembled unto him out of Israel A very great congregation of men and women and children For the people were weeping themselves The sense of guilt came upon them Their awful sin And Shekinah The son of Jehiel One of the sons of Elam answered and said to Ezra We have trespassed against our God And we have taken strange wives of the people of the land Yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing It's not over yet, it's not lost

yet Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God To put away all of 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 Let's make a covenant with God Let's start by saying look we're going to put away these wives We're going to be separate We're going to separate ourselves from the

world Christian friend I believe the time has come When we need to make a covenant with God I'm going to separate myself from the world From the pollution and the defilement of the world I'm going to separate myself from the worldly things Those things that tear down and defile I won't support those companies that are sponsoring The corrupting things So let's make a covenant with God

We're going to separate ourselves from this We're going to make a clean break, a new break It's severe yes, very severe It's harsh yes, it's very harsh And yet it's necessary if we're to survive Arise for this matter belongs unto thee We will also be with thee Be of good courage and do it Again Ezra had been commissioned by the king To come back and to oversee the nation And to see that the law of God was practiced And so he said hey that's in your jurisdiction man Go ahead do it and we will be with you Be of good courage let's do it Then Ezra rose And he made the chief priests and the Levites and all of Israel To swear that they would do according to this word And they all swore by it He said okay fellas this is it And they made a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem Unto all of

the children of the captivity That they should gather themselves together into Jerusalem And they gave them three days to gather Now that's not too harsh The furthest place at that time was 40 miles They had not really taken back all of the land They were just living from the area of Benjamin which was Ramallah On down to Beersheba in the south And from Jericho to the Mediterranean And so they made the proclamation That all of the children of captivity Those that had come back should all gather together in Jerusalem at this time And that whoever would not come within three days According to the counsel of the princes and the elders That they would confiscate their possessions And he himself would be separated from the congregation Of those that had been carried away You got three days to

get here if not Your goods will be taken away your house will be taken away You're gonna be separated from the people of God You'll be ostracized or excommunicated Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together Into Jerusalem within the three days Now this was the ninth month And the twentieth day of the month Now the ninth month roughly corresponds to our month of December The twentieth day of the month So it was close to the Christmas season And in Jerusalem in December is when they get so much of their rain And Jerusalem gets cold in the winter time when it rains And so the people assembled and they sat in the street of the house of God Around the outer court there of the house of God Trembling because of this matter and for the great rain They were there getting

soaked and so they were trembling Partially because of the severity of the issue And partially because of this rain And Ezra the priest stood up and said unto them You have transgressed and taken strange wives To increase the trespass of Israel Now therefore make confession unto the Lord God of your fathers And do his pleasure and separate yourselves from the people of the land And from the strange wives Three actions You're guilty You have sinned and trespassed against God So first of all confess your guilt Always the Bible tells us that if we confess Our sins God is faithful and just to forgive us If you seek to cover your sins If you seek to justify yourself Then there is no forgiveness Forgiveness comes through an open confession God I am guilty God I have sinned You remember how

Jesus spoke about the two men who went into the temple to pray And the Pharisee as he stood there said God I thank you That I'm not like other men And how he presented himself to God And Jesus said the other fellow being a publican A noted sinner Wouldn't even as much as lift his head towards heaven But just with bowed heads smote on his chest And said oh God be merciful to me a sinner And Jesus said I tell you he went away justified Whereas the other one went away bearing his guilt Confession The first step Towards a renewed relationship Second Do his pleasure It isn't a matter is it right or is it wrong The

question is is it pleasing to God We are living in a day of changing morals As far as the world is concerned As they are sinking deeper in the mire And the mores Which generally

determine the practices of a society Are deteriorating year by year But we are not to live by the mores of the society We are to live by the commandments of God And we are to do his pleasure And the question is not is it right or is it wrong But does it please God for me to do this And let that be the standard for what you allow And for what you do And then finally separate yourself From the world Come you apart from them and be you separate Sayeth the Lord and touch not the unclean thing And I will be a father unto you And ye shall be my sons and daughters But God calls his people to be separate To separate themselves from the world Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice As you have said so must we do Not we ought to do it Yes that's really what we should do And

that's the problem in our Christian body and community So often we hear these things oh man we ought to do this And we talk about what we ought to do God help us to get to the must We must do it If we are going to survive we must do it So must we do But the people are many It's a time of much rain We are not able to stand out here And neither is this the work of one day or two For there are many who have transgressed in this thing Yes we must do it but give us just a little time We can't just do it overnight So let now our rulers of all of the congregation stand And let all of them which have taken strange wives in our cities Come at the appointed times and with them the elders of every city The judges thereof until the fierce wrath of our God For this matter is turned from us Let's go

ahead and start action now Only Jonathan The sons of Eshel and Jehaziah The son of Tikvah were employed about this matter And Meshulam and Shabathiah And the Levite helped them And so the children of the captivity did so And Ezra the priest with certain chiefs of the fathers After the house of their fathers And all of them by their names were separated And they sat down on the first day of the tenth month To examine the matter So it was determined we've got to take this course of action And so the tenth month roughly corresponds with our January And so on January the first The tenth month, the first day They sat down to work out now the program By which we're going to deal with these issues And be separated from the world So twenty days, they were on the twentieth day That this whole

assembly took place And now on the first day of the month of January They are determined to start taking the action And among the sons of the priest There were found those that had taken strange wives Namely the sons of Joshua The son of Josedach And his brethren Mosiah And Eliezer And Jerob and Gedoliah Now Joshua was the high priest And even his own sons were guilty of this sin The bible says the time has come when judgment must begin At the house of God But if it begins here Man, what's going to happen to those That are really out in the sin As it was reported to Ezra The priest and the chief rulers were Actually the leaders in this whole thing It is interesting that at least First of all it lists the priest And those that were guilty from the priestly families And being guilty these

priests offered a ram Of the flock for their trespass And then after naming the sons of the priest It names the Levites that were guilty Verse twenty-three also of the Levites And the names of the Levites In verse twenty-three Verse twenty-four Those also employed in the worship of the temple The singers And it names those from the temple employees The singers and all that were guilty And then of the families of Israel Beginning with verse twenty-five And going to the end of the chapter Now These names Are the infamous names of the violators Recorded That through all history Their sin might be exposed These are the guilty culprits Oh thank God he doesn't do such practices today But their names have been recorded And probably the purpose of it being To put them to open shame For their

trespass The final verse And all these had taken strange wives And some of them had wives by whom they had children But the determination To confess To seek to please God And to separate themselves And they averted The judgment of God Because God is gracious And God is merciful We'll return with more of our verse by verse venture Through the Bible in our next lesson And we do hope you'll make plans to join us But right now I'd like to remind you That if you missed any part of today's message Or perhaps you'd like to order a copy For that special friend or loved one You can do so by simply contacting One of our customer service representatives And they'd be more than happy to assist you With the ordering details Simply call 1-800-272-WORD And phone orders can be taken Monday through Friday

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Box 8000 Costa Mesa, California 92628 And be sure to include the call letters Of this station with your correspondence And now on behalf of the word for today We'd like to thank all of you Who share in supporting this ministry With your prayers and financial support And be sure to join us again next time As Pastor Chuck Smith Begins his verse by verse study of Nehemiah That's right here on the next edition of The word for today And now once again Here's Pastor Chuck Smith It comes down to you Your personal relationship with God Your personal commitment to Him But as Elijah stood before the people and said Choose this day who you will serve If Baal, Molech, or Mammon be God Then serve them But if Jehovah is God Then serve Him Commit yourself Because you can't serve two masters You'll either hold to the one and despise the other As for me and my house We're going to serve Jehovah We're going to follow Jesus Christ We're going to live to please Him We're going to cleanse our house From the defilement of the world We're going to live a separated life unto God A life that pleases And places Just by clicking or touching your screen An online dictionary Plus highlighting, note taking, and bookmarking And everywhere Pastor Chuck shares What he learned or studied something You now have access to those very same notes So get ready to study the Bible in a whole new way Now you don't have to imagine what it was like to be there This is the next best thing To find out how to download Pastor Chuck's Genesis commentary To your electronic device Please call the word for today At 800-272-9673 Or to watch a video demonstration Visit us online at thewordfortoday.org This program has been sponsored by The Word for Today In Costa Mesa, California

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