

# RETURN, REBUILD, RESTORE

Summit Christian Athletics April Devotional



## EZRA 9:1-8

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. 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." 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. 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.

At the evening sacrifice I arose from my fasting; and having torn my garment and my robe, I fell on my knees and spread out my hands to the Lord my God. And I said: "O my God, I am too ashamed and humiliated to lift up my face to You, my God; for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has grown up to the heavens. Since the days of our fathers to this day we have been very guilty, and for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests have been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plunder, and to humiliation, as it is this day. And now for a little while grace has been shown from the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place..."

### INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

Players & Coaches: Use this space to write down a prayerful reflection on how this scripture applies to your team

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### TEAM REFLECTION

1. The Israelites had not separated themselves from the non-believers in the land as God had told them to. What are some ways that we can separate ourselves from sinful attitudes and actions this season?
2. Verse 2 says that the "hand of the leaders and rulers has been foremost in this trespass." What can the coaches, captains, and other leaders on your team do to lead your program to a successful season both on and off the court/field/course this year?
3. Ezra realizes that grace has been shown to his people, and they have another chance to do things right. In sports we are given second chances as well. What is the best way to refocus after a tough game/match, and make the most of a second chance?

