

How can we be so sure of this hope to which Shecaniah calls us?

I. Because God is God!

- We **know** that God is God **when** we honor God as God!
- For although they knew God, **they did not honor him as God** or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened (Romans 1:21 ESV).

II. Because God is grace & truth!

- We **know** that God is grace and truth **because** we know Jesus Christ.
- And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, **full of grace and truth** (John 1:14 ESV).

OUTLINE for Ezra 9 & 10

I. The **bad news** is delivered to Ezra, 9:1-2.

- The faithlessness of the people was reported to Ezra.
- The officials and the chief men were foremost.

II. Ezra anguishes and prays over the **bad news**, 9:3-15.

- A. Shocked and dismayed Ezra had to sit down, 9:3.
- B. Everyone who trembled at God's words gathered around him, 9:4.
- C. Ezra prayed, 9:5-15.
 - Ezra acknowledged their great guilt, 9:5-7.
 - Ezra acknowledged God's amazing grace, 9:8-9.
 - Ezra struggled to find words to express his sorrow and regret, 9:10-14.

III. The **good news** is delivered to Ezra, 10:1-4.

- Shecaniah delivers God's message of hope.

CONCLUSION: Ezra implements a plan based on the **good news**, 10:5-44.

Emboldened by God through Shecaniah, Ezra implemented a plan to bring the people back to God. **LESSON:** We make our ministry plans per God's good news, not the enemy's bad news.



Hope
Yet There Is Hope!
Ezra 9 & 10
Time to get right with God. NOW!
Hope in God always!
Always!
Even now (2014) there is hope ...
NOW!
great guilt
weeping
faithlessness
ashamed
guilt mounted up to the heavens ...
iniquities higher than our heads ...
broken faith
Anybody else see a pattern developing here?

- Now is the time.
- Today is the day.



No Panic Button in Heaven!



God is God!