HOW can we be **SO SUP** 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).

Hope!

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.





 Now is the time. • Today is the day.

Time to get right with God. NOW!

Hope

Hope in God always!

Even now (2014) there is hope ...

guilt mounted up to the heavens ...





iniquities higher than our heads ...

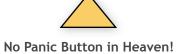
Yet There Is Hope!

Ezra 9 & 10

Hope

faithlessness

great guilt









NOW!

weeping

broken faith

ashamed