

WORKSHEET # 2: Ezra's Prayer

Carefully read Ezra 9:6-16 six times, in at least three different Bible versions. Please indicate which versions you read.

(1) Outline the passage in detail, down to the third level (i.e., I....A....1....) Give inclusive verse numbers for each heading (e.g., 9:6-7a; 9:7b; 9:8-9; etc.). Give careful thought to the outline headings, and to the flow of thought between each section as well as within each section. **(7 pts)**

(2) On the basis of your work in (1), write a one-sentence statement of theme for the entire passage. This statement must reflect the statements in your outline, i.e., the theme must be derived directly from the work done in (1). **(3 pts)**

(3) Identify a situation in the modern world where such a prayer might be appropriate. This could be something in the life of the Church at large, in an individual congregation, in a family, in a community, in a nation, or something else. State how the situation is analogous, and then write your own prayer, of similar length, reflecting the tone and attitude of the prayer in Ezra 9. Be creative, be careful, and be faithful to the text, to the God of the text, and to the contemporary situation. Enjoy! **(10 pts)**