

Chapter 10

Efdras calling the people together commandeth them to difmifse the ftrange wemen, which they haue married: 14. appointing officers to fee it executed: 18. and reciteth thofe which had married fuch wemen.

Efdras therefore thus praying, and befeeching, and weeping, and lying before the temple of God, there was gathered to him of Ifrael an exceeding great companie of men and wemen and children, and the people wept with much lamentation. ² And Sechenias the fonne of Iehiel of the children of Aelam answered, and faid to Efdras: We haue tranfgreffed againft our God, and haue taken to wiues ftrange wemen of the people of the land: and now if there be penance in Ifrael vpon this, ³ let vs make a couenant with the Lord our God, to put away al the wiues, and them that are borne of them, according to the wil of our Lord, and of them that feare the precept of the Lord our God: be it done according to the law. ⁴ Arife, it is thy part to difcerne, and we wil be with thee: take courage, and doe it. ⁵ Efdras therefore rofe vp, and adiured the Princes of the Prieftes and of the Leuites, and al Ifrael, that they fhould doe according to this word, and they fwere. ⁶ And Efdras rofe vp before the houfe of God, and went to the chamber of ^aIohanan the fonne of Eliafib, and entered into it: he did eate no bread, and dranke no water: for he mourned for the tranfgreffion of them, that were come out of the captiuitie. ⁷ And there was a proclamation fent in Iuda and Ierufalem, to al the children of the tranfmigration, that they fhould affemble together into Ierufalem. ⁸ And euerie one that fhall not come within three dayes, according to the counfel of the princes and ancientes, al his fubftance fhall be taken away, and him

^a Efdras being extraordinarily fent by God, to correct the people, repayreth to the high Priefts fonne, by his authoritie calleth the people together, and fo procedeth to make reformation. So S. Paul conferred with other Apoftles. *Gal. 2.*

felfe fhall be caſt out of the companie of the tranſmigration. ⁹ There aſſembled therefore al the men of Iuda, and Benjamin into Ierufalem withing three dayes, that is the ninth moneth, the twentieth day of the moneth: and al the people ſate in the ſtrete of the houſe of God, trembling for the finne, and ^a)the rayne. ¹⁰ And Eſdras the Prieſt aroſe, and ſayd to them: You haue tranſgreſſed, and taken ſtrange wemen to wife, to adde vpon the finne of Iſrael. ¹¹ And now geue confeſſion to our Lord the God of your fathers, and doe his pleaſure, and be ſeparated from the people of the land, and from your wiues the ſtrangers. ¹² And al the multitude answered, and ſayd with a lowde voyce: According to thy word vnto vs, ſo be it done. ¹³ Neuertheleſſe becauſe there is much people, and a tyme of rayne, and we can not abyde to ſtand without, and it is not a worke of one day or two (for we haue exceedingly finned in this thing) ¹⁴ let there be princes appoynted in al the multitude: and let al in our citie that haue taken ſtrangers to wife, come at ſette tymes, and with them the ancientes by citie and citie, and the iudges therof, vntil the wrath of our God be turned away from vs for this finne. ¹⁵ Therefore Ionathan the ſonne of Azahel, and Iaazia the ſonne of Thecua were appoynted ouer this, and Mefollam and Sebethai Leuites did helpe them: ¹⁶ and the children of the tranſmigration did ſo. And Eſdras the Prieſt, and the men, princes of the families went into the houſes of theyr fathers, and al by theyr names, and they ſate in the firſt day of the tenth moneth to ſearch out the matter. ¹⁷ And al the men were fully counted that had taken ſtrangers to wife, vnto the firſt day of the firſt moneth. ¹⁸ And there were found of the ſonnes of the Prieſtes that had taken ſtrangers to wife. Of the children of Iofue the ſonne of Iofedec, and his brethren, Maafia, and Eliezer, and Iarib, and Godolia. ¹⁹ And they gaue theyr handes to put away theyr wiues, and to offer for theyr offence a ramme of the flocke. ²⁰ And of the children of Emmer, Hanani, and

^a Their finne was puniſhed by ouer much rayne. *v. 13.* And ſo affliction gaue them more feeling of their faultes.

Zebedia. ²¹ And of the children of Harim, Maafia, and Elia, and Semeia, and Iehiel, and Ozias. ²² And of the children of Phefthur, Elionai, Maafia, Ifmael, Nathanael, Iozabed, and Elafa. ²³ And of the children of the Leuites, Iozabed, and Semei, and Celaia, the fame is Calita, Phataia, Iuda, and Eliezer. ²⁴ And of the finging men Eliafib: and of the porters, Sellum, and Thelem, and Vri. ²⁵ And of Ifrael, of the children of Pharos, Remeia, and Iezia, and Melchia, and Miamin, and Eliezer, and Melchia, and Banea. ²⁶ And of the children of Aelam, Mathania, Zacharias, and Iehiel, and Abdi, and Ierimoth, and Elia. ²⁷ And of the children of Zethua, Elioenai, Eliafib, Mathania, Ierimuth, and Zabad, and Aziza. ²⁸ And of the children of Bebai, Iohanan, Hanamia, Zababai, Athalai. ²⁹ And of the children of Bani, Mofollam, and Melluch, and Adaia, Iafub, and Saal, and Ramoth. ³⁰ And of the children of Phahath Moab, Edna, and Chahal, Bananias, and Maafias, Mathanias, Befeleel, Bennui, and Manaffe. ³¹ And of the children of Herem, Eliezer, Iofue, Melchias, Semeias, Simeon, ³² Benjamin, Maloch, Samarias. ³³ And of the children of Hafom, Mathanai, Mathatha, Zabad, Eliphelet, Iermai, Manaffe, Semei. ³⁴ Of the children of Bani, Maaddi, Amram, and Vel, ³⁵ Baneas, and Badaias, Cheliau, ³⁶ Vania, Marimuth, and Eliafib, ³⁷ Mathanias, Mathanai, and Iafi, ³⁸ and Bani, and Bennui, Semei, ³⁹ and Salmias, and Nathan, and Adaia, ⁴⁰ and Mechnedebai, Sifai, Sarai, ⁴¹ Ezrel, and Selemiau, Samera, ⁴² Sellum, Amaria, Iofeph. ⁴³ Of the children of Nebo, Iehiel, Mathathias, Zabad, Zabina, Ieddu, and Ioel, and Banaia. ⁴⁴ Al thefe had taken ftrangers to wife, and there were of them that had borne ^a)children.

^a Amongft other inconuenciences of vnlawful mariages one is that children are borne illegitimate.