I. Ezra’s Prophetic Voice is clearly “seen” and heard in Chapters 9 and 10.

 A. Ezra’s path to hearing and conveying the prophetic voice is seen in 7:6-10.

 B. Psalm 1 is an important comparison to make, lest we think the prophetic voice is only for the few.

 1. The sword of the Spirit is the word of God (Ephesians 6:17)

 a. Watching and hearing Jesus in Matthew 4 and Mark 4 use the scriptures is our clearest example of how the prophetic voice works.

 C. Spiritual ineffectiveness and lack of productivity are explained in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

 1. Ezra was equipped, effective and productive and we are told how and why.

II. In chapters 9 and 10 Ezra reminds us that knowing the scriptures and having a

 Biblical world view may be effective and productive; however, it can be painful.

 A. The comparison and contrast of the leaders of Israel and Ezra is telling in 9:1-4 1. The 18-inch rule is evident in Ezra’s response connecting head and heart.

 B. Connecting with the heart of God is the intended byproduct of studying scripture.

 1. Ezra’s prayer contains the elements that indicate that his study was working.

 2. Ezra was grieving not only for the people; he was grieving for God.

 3. The echoes of Ezra can be heard in Ephesians 4:17-32.

 a. The Apostle Paul is speaking in the “prophetic voice.”

 b. Grieving/quenching the Holy Spirit is the cry of the prophet, v. 30.

III. The Message of Intermarriage is an opportunity to understand the principle of being God’s

 “peculiar” people.

 A. 1 Peter 2:9

 B. 2 Corinthians 6:17: “separate, unequally yoked” principle

 C. The “what we do” vs. “why we do it” and how it affects God is the prophet’s message.

 IV. The bottom line of the prophetic voice is threefold:

 A. God’s Presence

 B. God’s Promises

 C. God’s Power