

~MESHULLAM 14 (42)

(Me-shul'lam) [from a root meaning, make peace, compensate, repay]

- **A Levite who perhaps opposed the admonition to send away the foreign wives Ezra found among the Israelites on his return to Jerusalem. However, the text may be read to mean that he opposed only the procedure adopted for carrying it out.**
- **At length Ezra the priest rose and said to them; You yourselves have acted unfaithfully in that you gave a dwelling to foreign wives so as to add to the guiltiness of Israel. (Ezra 10:10)**
- **And now make confession to Yehowah the God of your forefathers and do his pleasure and separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives. (Ezra 10:11)**
- **To this all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice; Exactly according to your word it devolves upon us to do. (Ezra 10:12)**
- **However, the people are many, and it is the season of showers of rain, and it is not possible to stand outside, and the business will not take one day or two, for we have rebelled to a great extent in this matter. (Ezra 10:13)**
- **So, please, let our princes act representatively for all the congregation, and, as for all in our cities who have given a dwelling to foreign wives, let them come at the times appointed and along with them the older men of each individual city and its judges, until we have turned back the burning anger of our God from us, on account of this matter. (Ezra 10:14)**
- **However, Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahzeiah the son of Tikvah themselves stood up against this, and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levites were the ones that helped them. (Ezra 10:15) Footnote**