

Let us recall that in religious literature the Church is often called "the wife" and "the bride". The Bible describes (after the return to Jerusalem) a "great meeting" (council ?), at which the struggle against that leaders and people of Judah who had taken "strange wives" (foreign wives ?) was carried on. This means probably the struggle against heresies = "strange wives". The Bible attaches a great importance to this meeting (see Ezra). "For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons; so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass" (Ezra 9:2). Ezra (he was the senior priest, see Ezra:9) prays for the liberation of people of Judah from "the strange wives", and then "assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children... then all the men of Judah... Now therefore make confession unto the Lord God of and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do." (Ezra 10:1, 9-12).

"And that whosoever would not come within three days, ... all his substance should be forfeited, and himself separated from the congregation of those that had been carried away (see corresponding excommunications of this epoch in 14th c. A.D.—A. F.)" (Ezra 10:8). Then the Bible lists those guilty in taking "strange wives". It would be extremely interesting to compare these biblical lists of names with medieval sources telling about heresies and Constance council.

The biblical books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther form the conclusion of the historical narration of Old Testament, so the chain of the events described therein ends about the beginning of the 14th c. A.D.