

ALLEN TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School Live

July 2, 2023

Lesson Title: Joyful Worship Restored

Text: Ezra 3: 1-7, 23-25 NIV

**Scripture Reference: (2 Kings 24:1–12)
(2 Chronicles 36:15–21), (Ezra 1-3)**

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Lesson Background

Throughout the history of the Israel, one ruler obeyed God, and his successor would disobey God, often leading the nation into unrighteousness. In the historical era prior to our lesson, King Josiah sought to cleanse and restore *true worship* among the people of Israel. Josiah rebuilt the Temple and led the people to obey the Law of & follow all the required feasts, sacrifices and Passover.

Lesson Background

After Josiah's death, his 2 sons, Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim became Kings, and did evil in the sight of the Lord. The people disobeyed God, and chief priests defiled the Temple. God's prophets warned them, but they mocked them.

God's Wrath. King Nebuchadnezzar came & slew them unmercifully: young, old, men & women, he removed everything from the Temple, burned it and destroyed the wall of Jerusalem. Those who remained were taken into captivity for 70 years, the time God appointed.

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Ezra 3:1 

1 When the seventh month came, and the children of Israel were in the towns, the people gathered as one man to Jerusalem.

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Ezra 3:2 

² Then arose Jeshua the son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel with his kinsmen, and they built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the Law of Moses the man of God.

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Ezra 3:3 

³ They set the altar in its place, for fear was on them because of the peoples of the lands, and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, burnt offerings morning and evening.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- 1. The Altar was rebuilt with anticipation.**
- 2. The Altar is a designated place of worship.**
- 3. There was worship morning and evening.**
- 4. The people came together as ONE man.**

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Ezra 3:4 

⁴ Then in accordance with what is written, they celebrated the Festival of Tabernacles with the required number of burnt offerings prescribed for each day.

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Ezra 3:5 

⁵ After that, they presented the regular burnt offerings, the New Moon sacrifices and the sacrifices for all the appointed sacred festivals of the LORD, as well as those brought as freewill offerings to the LORD.

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Ezra 3:6 

Thanksgiving and Faith!

⁶ On the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD, though the foundation of the LORD's temple had not yet been laid.

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Ezra 3:7 

⁷ Then they gave money to the masons and carpenters, and gave food and drink and olive oil to the people of Sidon and Tyre, so that they would bring cedar logs by sea from Lebanon to Joppa, as authorized by Cyrus king of Persia

Liberating Lesson

Unbroken fellowship with God is so vital to our existence and peace of mind in today's perilous world. Our praise and worship bring us into God's presence and protection. Our continual disobedience only stirs the wrath of God and places us in a position to lose our greatest possession: our relationship with God—the source of our praise, worship, and more importantly, our joy.

Key Things to Remember!

- 1. Worship is Sacred, obedience and sacrifice.**
- 2. We Praise God for His existence.**
- 3. Celebrate & thank God for His goodness;**
- 4. Exalt God for He is worthy of all glory.**
- 5. Worship is a lifestyle, not a performance.**

BIBLICAL STUDY RESOURCES

- 1. NASB | NIV | NRSV STUDY BIBLE**
- 2. EXPOSITORS BIBLE COMMENTARY (O.T.)**
- 3. THE PROPET JEREMIAH & ISRAEL**
- 4. GOTQUESTIONS.ORG**
- 5. PRECEPTS FOR LIVING.**