

RESTORATION OF ISRAEL'S WORSHIP
(Ezra 3:1-13)

- I. Practicing the Prescribed SACRIFICES (Ezra 3:1-6)
 - A. Began in the SEVENTH MONTH (3:1*a*)
 - B. Called a UNIFIED assembly in JERUSALEM (3:1*b*)
 - C. Re-established Israel's SACRIFICES (3:2-6)
 - 1. Led by Jeshua, the HIGH PRIEST, and Zerubbabel, heir of DAVID
 - 2. Rebuilt "the ALTAR of the God of ISRAEL"
 - 3. Built it as MOSES had prescribed
 - 4. Admitted being TERRIFIED because of the "peoples of the lands"
 - 5. Re-established the MORNING and EVENING burnt offerings
 - 6. Celebrated the Feast of BOOTHS/TABERNACLES
 - 7. Reinstated ALL the required sacrifices
 - 8. Received VOLUNTARY offerings beyond what was required
 - 9. Happened BEFORE they laid the foundation for the TEMPLE

- II. Preparing the Temple's FOUNDATION (Ezra 3:7-9)
 - A. Donated SILVER to pay for the work
 - B. Hired workers in STONE and WOOD

- C. Traded FOOD, DRINK, and OIL for CEDAR from Lebanon
- D. Began construction of the FOUNDATION of the TEMPLE
 - 1. Started in the SECOND month of the SECOND year
 - 2. Led by Zerubbabel, heir of DAVID, and Jeshua, the HIGH PRIEST
 - 3. Supervised by leading families of the LEVITES

III. Praising Their GOD (Ezra 3:10-13)

- A. Held a convocation when the FOUNDATION was FINISHED
 - 1. Assembled the priests with their TRUMPETS and ROBES
 - 2. Assembled the Levites with their CYMBALS
 - 3. Sang praise to God for His GOODNESS and His LOVINGKINDNESS
- B. Expressed great EMOTION at this event
 - 1. Many of the aged WEPT
 - 2. The rest REJOICED

IV. Lessons

- A. God's people need UNITED WORSHIP to face life's difficulties and dangers
- B. HONORING God is vital for a BELIEVING community living in the midst of a HOSTILE environment
- C. In this world even the greatest JOY is mingled with SADNESS
- D. Genuine faith rejoices BEFORE seeing the FULFILLMENT of the promise