

GODLY LEADERSHIP EZRA

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

**Questions are based on New International Version (NIV)*

Lesson 2 • Ezra 3 • September 29, 2011

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Ezra 1-2** has helped you?

SECTION I: READ EZRA 3:1-6

2. a) What did the Israelites do when the seventh month came (about three months after they arrived)?
b) What do you think it means to "assemble as one man?"
3. a) In **V2**, who is Jeshua (Joshua)? What was his role? See Haggai 1:1.
b) Who is Zerubbabel? What was his role? See Haggai 1:1 and Matthew 1:12-16.
c) What was the advantage of having both of these men lead in the rebuilding of the temple?
4. a) What was first thing the Israelites built and why?
b) What do you think is the significance and purpose of the altar? See Exodus 20:24 and 40:29.
5. a) List some examples of modern day sacrifices and offerings.
b) Read Romans 12:1. How are you offering your body as a living sacrifice to God?
6. a) In **V3**, why do you think the exiles feared the people around them as they built the altar?

- b) Share a time when you faced a fear as you stepped out in obedience to the Lord.
7. What was the first feast of the Israelites, and how and why was it celebrated? Read Leviticus 23:33-43.
8. What does the phrase “in accordance with what is written” (in **V2** and **V4**) imply about the exiles?
9. In **V5**, what other offerings and sacrifices did the Israelites present to God?
10. In **V6**, why do you think that the Israelites did not wait to bring offerings until the temple was completed?
11. What freewill offering are you being nudged to present to God?

SECTION II: READ EZRA 3:7-13

12. What were the next steps taken in preparation for rebuilding the temple?
13. What details in **V8-9** caught your attention and why?
14. a) In **V10-11**, what did the Israelites do when the foundation of the temple was laid?
- b) What foundations have been laid in you or your family that compel you to praise the Lord?

15. When your heart is full of praise, what song comes to your mind? (See **V11**).
16. a) **V12-13** report the mixed emotions of those who saw the temple's foundation being laid. Describe these emotions.
- b) Why do you think that the older priests were moved to weep?
- c) In what situation have you recently experienced a mixture of joy and sorrow?
17. In view of Ezra 3, write a prayer of thanksgiving for the work He is doing in your life.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. The altar was the place where the offerings prescribed by God were made. What are the five different types of offerings?
- Leviticus 1:3 _____
- Leviticus 2:1 _____
- Leviticus 3:1 _____
- Leviticus 4:1-3 _____
- Leviticus 5:14-16 _____
2. a) What is the meaning of the blood that was shed in the Old Testament offerings? See Leviticus 17:11 and Hebrews 9:21-22.
- b) What is the significance of the shed blood of Jesus in the New Testament? See Romans 3:25, I John 2:2 and Hebrews 2:17.
- c) What do you learn about God and His attitude toward sin?

