

→ **Scripture Reading-** Ezra 3:1-2, 10-12

**Rebuilding the ALTAR ~ Ezra 3:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> In early **autumn**, when the Israelites had settled in their towns, all the people assembled in Jerusalem with a unified purpose. <sup>2</sup> Then Jeshua son of Jehozadak joined his fellow priests and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel with his family in **rebuilding the altar** of the God of Israel. They wanted to sacrifice burnt offerings on it, as instructed in the Law of Moses, the man of God.

**Seventh Month ~ Tishri**

1<sup>st</sup> Tishri - **Feast of Trumpets** Lev 23:23-25

10<sup>th</sup> Tishri - **Day of Atonement** Lev 16:23:26-32

15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Tishri - **Feast of Tabernacles** Lev 23:33-36

<sup>3</sup> Even though the people were afraid of the local residents, they rebuilt the altar at its old site. Then they began to sacrifice burnt offerings on the altar to the LORD each morning and evening. <sup>4</sup> They celebrated the Festival of Shelters as prescribed in the Law, sacrificing the number of burnt offerings specified for each day of the festival. <sup>5</sup> They also offered the regular burnt offerings and the offerings required for the new moon celebrations and the annual festivals as prescribed by the LORD. The people also gave voluntary offerings to the LORD. <sup>6</sup> Fifteen days before the Festival of Shelters began, the priests had begun to sacrifice burnt offerings to the LORD. This was even before they had started to lay the foundation of the LORD's Temple. (NLT)

**IMPLICATION**

<sup>3</sup> Despite their FEAR of the peoples around them, they built the altar on ITS Foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the LORD, both the morning and evening sacrifices. <sup>4</sup> They celebrated the Festival of Shelters AS prescribed in the Law, sacrificing the number of burnt offerings specified for each day of the FESTIVAL. (NLT)

**Remember God's...**

- DELIVERANCE from Slavery
- PROVISION and Direction on the Journey
- PROTECTION from Enemies

**Psalm 103:1-5** (NIV) <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD, O my soul; ALL my inmost being, praise His holy Name.

<sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD, O my soul and....

**Forget NOT all HIS Benefits** <sup>vs 2</sup>

who **Forgives** ALL your sins <sup>vs 3</sup>

heals all your **Diseases** <sup>vs 3</sup>

who **Redeems** your life from the pit <sup>vs 4</sup>

**Crowns** you with love and compassion <sup>vs 4</sup>

who **Satisfies** your desires with good things <sup>vs 5</sup>

so that your youth is **Renewed** like the eagle's. <sup>vs 5</sup>

**OUR GOD...**

- Forgives
- Heals
- Redeems
- Pours Out
- Satisfies
- Renews

## Laying the Foundation for the TEMPLE ~ Ezra 1:5-11

<sup>7</sup> Then the people hired masons and carpenters and bought cedar logs from the people of Tyre and Sidon, paying them with food, wine, and olive oil. The logs were brought down from the Lebanon mountains and floated along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea to Joppa, for King Cyrus had given permission for this. <sup>8</sup> The construction of the Temple of God began in midspring, during the second year after they arrived in Jerusalem. The work force was made up of everyone who had returned from exile, including Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Jeshua son of Jehozadak and his fellow priests, and all the Levites. The Levites who were twenty years old or older were put in charge of rebuilding the LORD's Temple. <sup>9</sup> The workers at the Temple of God were supervised by Jeshua with his sons and relatives, and Kadmiel and his sons, all descendants of Hodaviah. They were helped in this task by the Levites of the family of Henadad. <sup>10</sup> When the builders completed the foundation of the LORD's Temple, the priests PUT ON their robes and took their places to blow their trumpets. And the Levites, descendants of Asaph, clashed their cymbals to PRAISE the LORD, just as King David had prescribed. <sup>11</sup> With praise and thanks, they sang this song to the LORD: "He is so good! His faithful love for Israel endures forever!" Then all the people gave a great shout, praising the LORD because the foundation of the LORD's Temple had been laid. <sup>12</sup> But many of the older Priests, Levites, and other leaders who had seen the first Temple WEPT aloud when they saw the new Temple's foundation. The others, however, were shouting for JOY. <sup>13</sup> The joyful shouting and weeping MINGLED together in a loud noise that could be heard far in the distance. (NLT)

## IMPLICATION

**Daniel 9:16–19** (NLT) <sup>16</sup> In view of all Your faithful mercies, Lord, please turn Your furious anger away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain. All the neighboring nations mock Jerusalem and Your people because of OUR sins and the sins of our ancestors. <sup>17</sup> "O our God, hear your servant's prayer! Listen as I plead. For Your own sake, Lord, SMILE again on Your desolate sanctuary. <sup>18</sup> "O my God, lean down and listen to me. Open your eyes and see our despair. See how Your city - the city that bears Your Name - lies in ruins. We make this plea, NOT because we deserve help, but because of your mercy. <sup>19</sup> "O Lord, Hear. O Lord, Forgive. O Lord, Listen and Act! For YOUR own sake, do not delay, O my God, for Your people and Your city BEAR Your Name."

## TAKE AWAY ??

<sup>12</sup> But many of the older priests, Levites, and other leaders who had seen the first Temple WEPT aloud when they saw the new Temple's foundation. The others, however, were shouting for joy. (NLT)

**Philippians 3:13–14** (NIV) ...But ONE thing I do: Forgetting what is BEHIND and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

My Name is I AM  
When you dwell on the Past  
with its mistakes and regrets  
I am NOT there  
My Name is not I WAS  
When you focus only on the Future  
with its problems, doubts, and fears  
I am not there  
My Name is not I Will Be  
When you focus on Today  
and live Obediently in this moment  
I am Here  
My Name is I AM