



Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

May 22, 2022
Worship from Ezra 3

With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: “He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever.” And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid... And the sound was heard far away.
(Ezra 3:11,13)

“The most striking feature of this stanza is something we have seen before and will see again, the desire of the psalmist that the worship of God be joyful and above all, loud. “The noise of temple worship was legendary”... Should the worship of God’s people be any less exuberant today? Should we be quiet when we have come to know him who is the great King above all kings and the great Lord above all lords? Shame on us for all lackluster worship and all halfhearted praise... John Wesley told his followers: “Sing lustily, and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead or asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sang the songs of Satan.” Not all of us have good voices. But I do not think the angels find poor voices offensive when hearts are full of gratitude to God.”

(James Montgomery Boice)

Ezra 3: A Great Shout of Praise

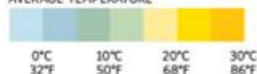
Ezra 3: Christ Centered Life

Vs 1-6

B15

Hebrew Calendar

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE



APR.	NISAN (ABIB)	14 Passover 15-21 Unleavened Bread 16 Offering of firstfruits	Jordan swells from rains, melting snow		Barley	
MAY	IYYAR (ZIV)	14 Late Passover	Dry season begins, mostly clear skies		Wheat	
JUNE	SIVAN	6 Festival of Weeks (Pentecost)	Summer heat, clear air		Wheat, early figs	
JULY	TAMMUZ		Heat increases, heavy dews in areas		First grapes	
AUG.	AB		Heat reaches maximum		Summer fruits	
SEPT.	ELUL		Heat continues		Dates, grapes, and figs	
OCT.	TISHRI (ETHANIM)	1 Trumpet blast 10 Day of Atonement 15-21 Festival of Booths 22 Solemn assembly	Summer ends, early rains begin		Plowing	
NOV.	HESHVAN (BUL)		Light rains		Olives	
DEC.	CHISLEV	25 Festival of Dedication	Rain increases, frost, mountain snows		Flocks wintered	
JAN.	TEBETH		Maximum cold, rainy, mountain snows		Vegetation developing	
FEB.	SHEBAT		Cold weather lessens, rain continues		Almond blossoms	
MAR.	ADAR	14, 15 Purim	Frequent thunder and hail		Flax	
	VEADAR	Intercalary month added seven times in 19 years				

Seventh month for the Hebrews:

- The Festival of Trumpets (Leviticus 23:23-25, Numbers 29:1-6)
- Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:26-32, Numbers 29:7-11)
- The Festival of Tabernacles (Numbers 29:12-39, Leviticus 23:33-43)

They celebrated all this with required amount of:

- Burnt offerings
- New Moon offerings
- Freewill offerings

What is the purpose of their worship?

The Festival of Trumpets: The trumpet sound was an alarm of sorts and can be understood as a call to introspection and repentance.

Day of Atonement: A time to look at the sacrifices and understand God's forgiveness

The Festival of Tabernacles: A reminder that God delivered them out of the "land of Egypt" and to look forward to the coming Messiah.

Burnt Offerings: An acknowledgement of their sin nature and a request for renewed relationship with God.

New Moon Offering: The New Moon offering marked the consecration to God of each new month in the year.

Freewill Offering: Whether it was the sacrifice of an animal or donated supplies for a place of worship, the free will offering was to be given freely, as the Lord moved the Israelites' hearts. It was not to be used to gain prestige or because of guilt, inducement, or force.

*For fear was on them because of the peoples of the lands...
(Ezra 3:3)*

Applications:

David's Palace (1004 BC)

*Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, along with cedar logs, stonemasons and carpenters to build a palace for him.
(1 Chronicles 14:1)*

David providing for Solomon to build the temple (970 BC)

So, David gave orders to assemble the foreigners residing in Israel, and from among them he appointed stonecutters to prepare dressed stone for building the house of God. He provided a large amount of iron to make nails for the doors of the gateways and for the fittings, and more bronze than could be weighed. He also provided more cedar logs than could be counted, for the Sidonians and Tyrians had brought large numbers of them to David.

David said, "My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the Lord should be of great magnificence and fame and splendor in the sight of all the nations. Therefore I will make preparations for it." So, David made extensive preparations before his death. (1 Chronicles 22:2-5)

King Hiram's correspondence with Solomon for supplies (959 BC)

...and we will cut all the logs from Lebanon that you need and will float them as rafts by sea down to Joppa. You can then take them up to Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 2:16)

Joppa





The exiles starting the temple in 538 BC (421 years after Solomon built the original temple)

Ezra 3:7-13

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.
(1 Chronicles 16:34)*

Why do some weep and some celebrate?

*‘Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing? But now be strong, Zerubbabel,’ declares the Lord. ‘Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,’ declares the Lord, ‘and work. For I am with you,’ declares the Lord Almighty. ‘This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.’
(Haggai 2:3-5)*

OFFER HOPE!

GROW IN COMMUNITY!

BE THE CHURCH!

Applications:

HOME GROUP Questions for Ezra 3:

1. What can we learn from verse 1 about the spirit of the people? Why was it important for them to be unified in the work (gathered together as one man)? Is there any area where you are struggling with unity? What do you think God wants you to do about it? What have you found to be some of the top reasons for disunity?
2. What do the actions of the people indicate about their priorities, and their relationship with God? What application can we learn from this? Is there anything you need to do to put God first in your life or are you taking care of yourself first and then giving God the leftovers?
3. As was true of the Israelites, there will always be resistance from the world, and obstacles in our path. What can we learn from the exiles about their response to fear or obstacles thrown in front of us preventing our worship of God?