

(v1-7) 7th month

(v1) \_\_\_\_\_ as “one man”

(v2-3) \_\_\_\_\_ the altar (Zerubbabel, Jeshua and his brethren)

(v3) \_\_\_\_\_ burnt offerings

(v4) \_\_\_\_\_ the Feast of \_\_\_\_\_

(v5) \_\_\_\_\_ regular burnt offerings, new moons and feasts

(v6) \_\_\_\_\_ day of the \_\_\_\_\_ month (Feast of Trumpets)

(v6) Foundation for the Temple is not laid yet

(v7) \_\_\_\_\_ building supplies

(v8-9) \_\_\_\_\_ month, \_\_\_\_\_ year in Jerusalem

(v8a) \_\_\_\_\_ begin laying the foundation

» Zerubbabel, governor

» Jeshua, High Priest

» Priests & Levites

» All who had come out of captivity

(v8b-9) \_\_\_\_\_ appointed to oversee the work

» Jeshua the High Priest with his sons (priesthood)

» Kadmiel with his sons (Levites)

» Sons of Judah (aka sons of Hodaviah the Levite)

» Sons of Henadad (Levites)

(v10-11) Foundation complete

(v10-13) \_\_\_\_\_!

(v10) \_\_\_\_\_ with their apparel & trumpets,

(v10) \_\_\_\_\_ with cymbals

(v11) \_\_\_\_\_ sang, praised, thanked God

(v12-13) People responded with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 3 focus:

### Examine timeline:

- Is chapter 3 chronological?
- Time divisions in the chapter:
  - (v 1-6) Focus on worship
  - (v 7-13) Focus on work
    - » Begin work:
    - » Celebration of finished task (Haggai 2:18):
    - » How many years elapsed in laying of the foundation?

#### Focus on Worship (v1-6)

- Overview of the Feasts
  - » The theme of the spring feasts is:
  - » The theme of the fall feasts: Feast of Trumpets/Day of Atonement:  
Feast of Tabernacles:
- The first feast named is the Feast of Tabernacles. Why does Ezra focus on this feast?
- What picture does this feast present?
- What is the significance of starting with the fall feasts and not the spring feasts?

#### Focus on Work (v7-13)

- The 2nd month of the 2nd year: moving from \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_, the next leg of experience

## Examine the tasks:

Translate these tasks into actions we might take in our own revival:

- **Gathered as one man:** Why is it important to come together with other believers?
  
- **Built the altar:** Why start with the altar first? What does it signify in a relationship with God?
  - Do you need a church building before you can begin worship?
  
- **Offerings & Feasts:** Morning and evening offerings (daily worship); New Moons and appointed feasts (corporate worship)
  - Is daily worship necessary, especially when rebuilding a relationship with God?
  - What kind of daily worship do we engage in?
  
  - What kind of corporate worship do we join in?
  
- **Laid the foundation:** What kind of a foundation do we build?
  - What are some of foundational truths about Jesus and our relationship with God that might need rebuilding in a person's understanding when they return to the faith?
  
  - How does a believer fall into ruin? (Luke 6:47-49)

- **Assigned overseers and work detail:** Who is called to do the building?
  
- **Celebrated**
  - As a corporate body, do we set goals for growth?
  
  - Do we celebrate milestones in building?
  
  - Why is there weeping with the rejoicing when Israel reaches their goal?



**Key Step in Revival (Ezra 1-6):**

**Exodus Theme:**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

# Overview of the Feasts of Israel

## Spring Feasts

- Passover (14<sup>th</sup>) Memorial of the death of the first born
- Feast of Unleaven Bread (15<sup>th</sup>) Memorial of coming out of Egypt, leaving the leaven behind
- Feast of First Fruits (16<sup>th</sup>) Beginning of the barley harvest, beginning again with new grain
- Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) Beginning of the wheat harvest, memorial of the giving of the Law at Sinai, later the giving of the Spirit at Jerusalem

**Theme of the spring feasts:** Separation (leaving Egypt physically) and new beginnings

## Fast of the 5<sup>th</sup> Month (9<sup>th</sup> of Av)

Memorial of the destruction of the Temple and Israel being sent into exile.

When the prophets speak of Israel's exile, it is spoken of as an analogy to husband and an unfaithful wife. Israel went into exile for her spiritual adultery – her unfaithfulness to God in her pursuit of idolatry. The destruction of the Temple and her exile is likened to an angry bridegroom who, finding his wife has been unfaithful, tears down the bridal chamber and sends her away in disgrace. The exiled bride must then begin the process of reconciling with the husband. After a period of self-assessment, acknowledgement of sin, and repentance, the exiled bride presents herself before her husband who tests and examines her to know if she is truly returning to him in her heart.

Every year, this analogy plays out between the fast of the 5<sup>th</sup> month and the Day of Atonement.

The fast is the moment of separation for the bride and groom – Israel and God. The time between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> months represents the time of self-reflection and repentance as Israel begins their spiritual return to God. The days between the Feast of Trumpets and Day of Atonement are thought of as the time of examination and judgment when the bride's faithfulness will be tested and the bridegroom will decide if she will be allowed to return. The Day of Atonement is that day of Israel's self-reproach, but also the day of reconciliation when God forgives His people their sins. What follows is the days of great feasting – the Feast of Tabernacles – which is likened to a wedding feast as the bride and groom are reunited.

## Fall Feasts

- Feast of Trumpets (1<sup>st</sup>) Entering into a time of judgment
- Day of Atonement (10<sup>th</sup>) Judgment day for nation of Israel, fasting, mourning, repenting
- Feast of Tabernacles (15<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>) Reconciliation, feasting, rejoicing, celebrating, likened to a wedding feast when the bride and groom are reunited

**Theme of the fall feasts:** Feast of Trumpets/Day of Atonement: Judgment  
Feast of Tabernacles: Reconciliation

## Feast of Tabernacles (aka Booths, Hebrew: Sukkot)

### Imagery of the sukkah

- **Genesis 33:17** – Jacob in his tent with his flocks in booths camped around him
- **Leviticus 23:39-43** Feast of Tabernacles in the Law
  - o Reminder of being brought out of Egypt into their own land
  - o Everyone gather at Jerusalem
  - o Camp out for 7 days in a “sukkah” to remember how they lived in booths during the Wilderness Journey (Lev 23:42-43)
  - o Gather the four species of branches (Lev 23:40)
  - o A time of great rejoicing
  - o Reminder of God’s provision and protection of His people
- **1 Kings 8, 2 Chronicles 5:1-3, 7:1-2, 8-10**  
Solomon dedicates the 1<sup>st</sup> Temple
  - o All Israel gathers in Jerusalem
  - o Solomon dedicates the Temple on the Feast of Tabernacles
  - o The Shekinah glory fills the Temple
  - o The picture of the kingdom as God envisioned it – Israel gathered together living in their own land under a Davidic king on the throne and God in His Temple in their midst
  - o A foreshadowing of a Messianic kingdom
- **Ezra’s days**
  - o The people have returned to the land after the exile
  - o Worship has been reinstated
  - o The people celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles
    - A reminder of Solomon dedicating the Temple and the glory of that first Temple
    - When work on the Temple project ceases, God sends Haggai and Zechariah with prophecies of a glorious Temple and a Messianic kingdom – most of which get delivered in the 7<sup>th</sup> month in conjunction with these fall feasts.



# Timeline of the Kings

## Cyrus II (550-529 BC)

1st year of Cyrus, Word of the LORD comes to Cyrus  
Zerubbabel and 1st wave of exiles go to Jerusalem

1st year of Cyrus, 7th month, 1st day  
Build altar/worship resumes

2nd year of Cyrus, 2nd month  
Began laying Temple foundation

Approx. 28 years separates the the time Israel began laying the Temple foundation to the time it was completed.  
After Cyrus, Cambyses II (529-522 BC) reigns a short while.

## Darius I (522-486 BC)

2nd year of Darius  
6th month, 1st day  
Haggai 1st prophecy

2nd year of Darius  
6th month, 24th day  
**Resume work on Temple**

2nd year of Darius  
7th month, 21st day  
Haggai 2nd prophecy

2nd year of Darius, 8th month  
Zechariah 1st prophecy

2nd year of Darius  
9th month, 24th day  
Haggai's third prophecy  
**Finished laying foundation**

2nd year of Darius,  
11th month, 24th day  
Zechariah 2nd prophecy

4th year of Darius, 9th month, 4th day  
Zechariah 3rd prophecy

6th year of Darius  
12th month, 3rd day  
**Temple completed**

## Xerxes I (Ahasuerus), (485-465 BC)

Approx. 57 years elapses between the Temple's completion and Ezra's arrival in Jerusalem.

## Artaxerxes Longimanus, (465-425 BC)

7th year of Artaxerxes, 1st month, 1st day  
Ezra & 2nd wave of exiles begin return  
(3 days fasting & prayer)

7th year of Artaxerxes, 5th month, 1st day  
2nd wave of exiles comes to Jerusalem  
3 days, camp; 4th day, accounting

9th month, 20th day  
Ezra calls all men to gather in Jerusalem

10th month, 1st day  
Ezra begins examination/purging of pagan wives

1st month, 1st day  
Ezra finishes Israel's separation

20th year of Artaxerxes, 9th month  
Nehemiah receives news of Jerusalem

20th year of Artaxerxes, 1st month  
Nehemiah sent to Jerusalem as governor (stayed 12 years)

5th month, 3rd day  
**Began work on city walls**

6th month, 25th day  
**Jerusalem's wall was finished**

7th month, 1st day - Ezra reads the Law

32nd year of Artaxerxes  
Nehemiah returns to Artaxerxes,  
then returns to Jerusalem



Preparation for Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread

Passover (14th)

Feast of First Fruits (16th)

Feast of Unleavened Bread (15th-21st)

Feast of Weeks (6th)

**Fast of the 4th Month (17th of Tammuz)**

Daily offering ceased in the First Temple

**Fast of the 5th Month (9th of Av)**

Destruction of the First Temple by the Babylonians

Preparation for Day of Atonement

Feast of Trumpets (1st)

**Fast of the 7th Month (3rd of Tishrei)**

Fast for the death of Gedaliah

Day of Atonement (10th)

Feast of Tabernacles (15th-22nd)

Chanukah (25th of Kislev - 2nd of Tevet)

**Fast of the 10th Month (10th of Tevet)**

Fall of Jerusalem