

THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EZRA

LESSON 2

10 When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the Lord, as prescribed by David king of Israel. 11 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. ~ Ezra 3:10-11 NIV

LESSON CONTEXT

Consider that the Israelites have returned from Babylonian Exile. Their assignment was the rebuilding of the Second Temple. In construction, foundations are very important to building, and this truth applies spiritually to our faith as well.

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

"Any other foundation will fail, but Christ is a sure and steady rock to build your life on."

— Billy Graham

"The word of God is a sure foundation."

— Peter Nii Korley

WORSHIP AND ORDER

We must remember that worship is intentional; it is not by accident or for entertainment. God desires His people to go all out in worship. In Ezra, we see robes worn, trumpets, and cymbals creating an instinctive sound. Vestments play a crucial role in the order and reverence of worship.

Remember how David brought in the Ark of the Lord, according to the established practice from the King. ~ 2 Samuel 6:1-19

The Ark of the Covenant was the ultimate symbol of God's divine and holy presence. Because of it, Israel became both a political power center and a worship center that represented the kingdom of God.

ASSIGNMENTS IN WORSHIP

Worship required intentional participation and clear assignments:

- A. **Priests led spiritually** – They directed the spiritual atmosphere.
- B. **Levites led musically** – The Sons of Asaph were assigned to the instruments and song.
- C. **Everyone glorifies the Lord** – The people responded with shouts of joy.

Remember, everyone has a role in worship. *"Worship is participatory, not passive."*

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises. ~
Psalm 22:3 NIV

"Worship carries a level of power, passion, and energy... it doesn't mean that it is always loud."

REBUILDING AND RESTORATION

- 1. "Rebuilding" is an action term.
 - A. **Builders laid the foundation:** It must be solid, with the ability to hold or house the structure above it.
 - B. **Significance of the foundation:** It signifies the beginning of restoration that supplies hope. This marks a new beginning for the returning exiles.

BALANCE IN WORSHIP

- 2. Balance in worship provides a true worship community. It is essential for our spiritual growth.
 - A. **Worship is a sign of healthy faith.** However, worshiping faithfully does not exempt you from struggle.

- B. **Worship creates a sound of joy.** Spiritual renewal produces visible joy. We have to be careful that we do not only worship God when we are successful, but also in the process of facing difficulties.
- C. **Worship embraces the journey.** *"God might not come when you want Him to, but He is always on time."*

COVENANT AND MOVING FORWARD

God keeps His covenant promises. While God is okay with us remembering our past, He desires that we move forward. The foundation laid in Ezra is not just about a building; it is about moving forward into the promises of God.
