

Ezra 3

King James Version (KJV)

3 And when the seventh month was come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem. (Preparing for the feasts day in the 7th month – The Feast of Tabernacles, the Feast of Trumps, the Day of Atonement)

² Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and builded the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God. (Jeshua – the nephew of Ezra, was the high priest at this time)

³ And they set the altar upon his bases; for fear was upon them because of the people of those countries: and they offered burnt offerings thereon unto the LORD, even burnt offerings morning and evening. (They were surrounded by heathen people who didn't want to see them returning to Judah. Fear drove them to re-institute the two daily offerings to Yahoveh. The walls of the city had not yet been rebuilt at this time)

⁴ They kept also the feast of tabernacles, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the custom, as the duty of every day required; See Numbers-29:13->on

⁵ And afterward offered the continual burnt offering, both of the new moons, and of all the set feasts of the LORD that were consecrated, and of every one that willingly offered a freewill offering unto the LORD. (moons = months – better translation; God's people operated on a solar calendar, not a lunar calendar)

⁶ From the first day of the seventh month began they to offer burnt offerings unto the LORD. But the foundation of the temple of the LORD was not yet laid.

(Verses 7-13 are the rebuilding of the temple)

⁷ They gave money also unto the masons, and to the carpenters; and meat, and drink, and oil, unto them of Zidon, and to them of Tyre, to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea of Joppa, according to the grant that they had of Cyrus king of Persia. (They traded with the neighboring people for the materials) (Cyrus had also given them a grant of money to buy materials)

⁸ Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the remnant of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house of the LORD. (The work on the temple began and they appointed priests to oversee the work on the second year)

⁹ Then stood Jeshua with his sons and his brethren, Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together, to set forward the workmen in the house of God: the sons of Henadad, with their sons and their brethren the Levites. (Jeshua = Joshua – the nephew of Ezra)

¹⁰ And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel. (The ordinance was from God, done through King David. They appear to finally be following God's commands. How long will that last?)

¹¹ And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. Haggai-1 (They are quick to build their homes, but very slow to build the temple)

Also see Jeremiah-33:10-11 (Prophecy for the time of this chapter, and also for the end times; when antichrists lays Jerusalem waste with his false doctrine. God will return to cleanse it during the Millennium)

¹² But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: (After a 70 year captivity, there were only old men left alive who had seen the original temple)

¹³ So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off. (That will get the attention of the heathen people who live nearby. They didn't want the Jews returning to Jerusalem)

