

Ezra

1

The altar for burnt offerings was built with sacrifices resuming in the seventh month 3:1-6

- The altar was built according to God's instruction to Moses in Exodus 20:24-26
- Fear of the people of the land drove this action. v.3
- Reflects the fact that God is their defense. The walls of Jerusalem had not been rebuilt and would not until many years later when Nehemiah arrives on the scene.

2

- No work had begun on the rebuilding of the Temple.
- Burnt offerings were an integral part of virtually every aspect of worship and service. Ezra 3:2

3

- Feasts of the Lord Leviticus 23
 - The Sabbath-every seventh day
 - The Passover-fourteenth day of the first month.
 - Feast of Unleavened Bread-fifteenth day of the first month, lasting seven days with a holy convocation on the first and seventh days.
 - Feast of the Firstfruits-the firstfruits of the harvest brought to the priest and waved before the Lord on the day after the Sabbath after they have been presented to the priest.

4

- Feasts of the Lord Leviticus 23
 - Feast of Weeks-seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath from the day the sheaf of the wave offering is presented. (Pentecost)
 - Feast of Trumpets-first day of the seventh month.
 - Day of Atonement-tenth day of the seventh month.
 - Feast of Booths-fifteenth day of the seventh month and continue for seven days with a holy convocation on the first and seventh day.

5

- Daily offerings were prescribed by the Law of Moses. Numbers 28:1-8
- Sabbath Day offerings Numbers 28:9-10
- Monthly offerings Number 28:11-15
- Passover Offerings Numbers 28:16-25

6

- Feast of Weeks offerings Numbers 28:26-31
- Feast of Trumpets offerings Numbers 29:1-6
- Day of Atonement offerings Numbers 29:7-11
- Feast of Booths offerings Numbers 29:12-38

7

Preparation for rebuilding the Temple. 3:6-7

- Laborers enlisted
- Materials were ordered
 - Note that Cyrus had issued a "grant" to secure materials needed for construction of the temple.

8

Work began on the Temple in the second year of the return and proceeded to the laying of the foundation. 3:8-13

- Zerubbabel the governor and Jeshua the High Priest gave leadership to the effort.
- Levites, age 20 and up, given the responsibility to supervise the work.
- Praises offered to the LORD at the completion of the foundation (1 Chronicles 16; 2 Chronicles 5:13; 7:6)
- An extremely emotional experience for all of the people.

9

Lessons

- Worship focuses on God, the source of all we need.
- Worship redirects our fear back to God.
- Joining God in His work requires leadership, organization and coordination.
- Deliberate acts of praise rightly remind us that it is God's work in which we are engaged.
- Remember the consequences of sin as you rejoice in God's restoration.
