

Sunday, 07-02-2023

**Joyful Worship Restored**  
**Bible Background: Ezra 1:1-3:7**  
**Printed Text: Ezra 3:1-7 KJV/NLT**  
**Devotional Reading: Matthew 23:29-39**

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**Aim for Change:**

- **KNOW** that we should celebrate and express thanks to God for His goodness.
    1. How do I **KNOW** that I should celebrate and express thanks to God for His goodness?
  - **DESIRE** to praise God for His goodness.
    2. Where's my **DESIRE** to praise God for His goodness?
  - **PRAISE** God for His goodness.
    3. How do I **PRAISE** God differently for His goodness?
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**Devotional Reading: Mon: Jesus' Lament over Jerusalem – Matthew 23:29-39; Luke 13:31-35**

- How am I blocking Jesus from protecting me? Is my despair caused by my sin? What observances/sacrifices do I need to reinstitute and rebuild/strengthen my relationship with God? (**Discuss the Meaning**)
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**Focal Verses – Restoring the Worship to God – Ezra 3:1-7**

1. **Worship Restored (vv. 1-5) – Exodus 23:13-19; Leviticus 23:33-36; Haggai 1:1-9**
    - (v. 1) Am I gathering together for a unified purpose or for show? (vv. 2-3) How do I demonstrate I need God's guidance? How am I seeking forgiveness for my sins? (v. 4) What reminds me of God's deliverance and love? What reminds me of what God delivered me from and how He did it? (v. 5) Will God continue to protect me if I ignore Him? Am I obeying God out of love or habit? How can I go over and above in my offerings without monies?
  2. **The Temple Restored (vv. 6-7) – 1 Kings 9:20-21; 1 Chronicles 22:2**
    - (v. 6) How do I contribute to meeting the needs of God's church? Am I helping to build it up or tear it down? (v. 7) Do I need someone else's permission to serve God? Do I have skills, talents, and gift(s) that can help build God's church? Is God's temple restored in me? Do non-Christians contribute more to God's house and serve His people more than me?
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**Daily Readings:**

- **Tuesday: The Coming Judgment – Jeremiah 7:30-8:3**
  - Am I doing anything in the church that God doesn't approve of?
- **Wednesday: Jerusalem Falls to the Babylonians – 2 Kings 24:1-12**
  - Whose footsteps am I following? Do they promote worship or rebellion?
- **Thursday: The Destruction of Jerusalem – 2 Chronicles 36:15-21**
  - Are my trials/tribulations part of God's remedy for my disobedience?
- **Friday: Rebuild a House for God – Ezra 1:1-8 (Bible Background)**
  - Outside of tithes and offerings, what am I willing to sacrifice to build up the temple of God?
- **Saturday: The People Respond – Ezra 2:64-70 (Bible Background)**
  - How do I go beyond in my giving to God?