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(Peter Lok)駱沅祺

[lokpeter@outlook.com](mailto:lokpeter@outlook.com)

[Bibleao.com](http://Bibleao.com)

## Daily Bible devotional; Daily Rice 2024 June 30

YouTube Prayer Link

Faith is in God's promises

The third chapter of the book of Ezra deals primarily with the rebuilding of Jerusalem, including the rebuilding of the temple and altar, and the resumption of sacrifices.

The chapter begins with a description of how Ezra and the rest of the people gathered at the site of Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and began building altars to offer sacrifices to God. The book then details how they began to rebuild the temple as required in the Law of Moses.

In the process of reconstruction, the Jews faced many difficulties and challenges, such as opposition from neighboring countries and insufficient resources. However, they still gave it their all and kept working hard to finally complete the reconstruction of the temple.

After the completion of the temple, the chapter also describes how to restore the law of sacrifice and the observance of God, including daily burnt offerings, feast offerings, and sin offerings. Through these sacrifices, the people of Israel were able to rediscover God, build a new relationship with God, and gain the strength and support to face the challenges ahead.

This chapter describes the difficulties and challenges faced by the people of Israel in rebuilding the temple and how they overcame them through faith and effort to restore the law of sacrifice and godhood. Anyone who has endured hardships knows how precious it is to worship God! In the past, the Israelites were not willing to serve Yahwa, and even the seventy elders were idolaters, so God disciplined them and sent them to exile, but when the time of revival came, God began to work.

In the beginning of the work, regression is the first step, many times we are enthusiastic to follow God, but God does things in order, at the beginning we must first go to the right place, maybe we will ask ourselves if we have stood in the Promised Land, if God has not told you to go to other places, it means that you are now standing in the Promised Land, some people may have to live in this life, and some people are just preparing themselves here, and then God will have a new lead.

The second step is the sacrifice, so when we are in the right place, the next step is to offer a burnt offering to God as a way to show that we are willing to fully lay ourselves up for God. God will bless us as long as we love Him well, and sacrifice represents sincere worship. A person worships God, not whether there is a fixed space, although the temple space has not yet been completed, we already have a temple in our hearts, and we have an attitude of worshiping and honoring the Lord in our hearts, so we start with sacrifices.

The third step is to keep the festival, which is actually a date with God, no matter how busy we are, we will let go of what we are doing, and when we do this, we will enter the rhythm of God, and God's blessings will indeed come to us.

The fourth step is to build a temple, and building a temple is the foundation, and if we don't deal with it from the foundation, many things will not be done well in the end, so spending 10 minutes a day subscribing to the devotional is a clear goal, which is the foundation of building a temple.

Most of the "old people who have seen the old temple" are over sixty years old. They were old and infirm, but they persisted in traveling 1,600 kilometers to return so that they could "see with their own eyes the foundation of this temple." At this time, in the face of the restoration of God's grace, they were so full of mixed feelings that they "wept with a loud voice, and many shouted with joy." Today, the worship of the church does not need to pursue deliberate performances and grand spectacles, as long as the glory, praise and thanksgiving that God deserves to Him, so that the hearts of all people turn to Him and meet Him in grace, which is the most beautiful worship acceptable to God!

We pray:

Dear Lord, Father! Take control of our hearts and let us put ourselves willingly, walk in God's rhythm, and walk according to God's leading. Pray that the whole temple building will be carried out smoothly and that it will be extended to the ends of the earth. Thank You for giving us the faith to rely on Your promises. Your words are a lamp to our feet and a light on our path, leading us through every challenge and difficulty.

Heavenly Father, we pray that You will enable us to rely on You more firmly. Your promises are our safeguards, and Your faithfulness will not change. No matter what circumstances and trials we face, let us remember Your Word and know that You will not forsake us or forsake us.

Help us to trust in Your promises in times of doubt and weakness. You have said that if we have faith, like a grain of mustard seed, we can move mountains and seas. We believe that You have a good plan for our lives and that Your promises will be fulfilled.

Lord, You are our refuge, our strength, our ever-present help in times of trouble. Pray that our hearts will be strong so that we can walk in faith and in the path You have prepared for us in faith and in Your promises, whenever and wherever we are. Amen. Pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

### Ezra 3

3:1 And it came to pass in the seventh month, that the Israelites dwelt in the cities, and they were gathered together in Jerusalem as one man.

3:2 And Jeshua, the son of Josadab, and all the priests of his brethren, and Sorubbabel the son of Zaratiel, and his brethren, arose to build the altar of the god of Israel, as it was written in the book of the law of Moses the man of God. and offer burnt offerings on the altar.

3:3 They built altars on their original foundations, fearing the people of their neighbors, and offering burnt offerings to Yahweh sooner or later.

3:4 and kept the tabernacles, as it is written in the Torah. And according to the custom, the burnt offering that was to be offered every day.

3:5 After that he offered the usual burnt offerings, and every Holy Sacrifice with Yahweh at the New Moon, and every willing offering to Yahweh.

3:6 From the first day of the seventh month they offered burnt offerings to the Lord . But the foundation of the temple has not yet been established.

3:7 And they gave silver to the stonemasons and to the carpenters, and to the grain, and wine, and oil, to the Sidonians, and to the Tyranes, that they might carry the cedar trees from Libera to the sea, and the floating sea to Joppa, as allowed by the Cyrus king of Pos.

3:8 And when the people came to the place of the temple in Jerusalem, in the second month of the second year, Solobabel, the son of Saratiel, Jeshua, the son of Josada, and the rest of his brethren, priests and Levites, and all those who had been brought back into exile to Jerusalem began to build . and sent Levites, from twenty years old onwards, to oversee the building of the temple of Yahweh.

3:9 So the descendants of Judah [who was Daviah in 2:40] were Jeshua, and his sons and brothers, and Kamil and his sons, and the sons and brothers of Henadad the Levites, And they all arose together to oversee those who were working in the temple of God.

3:10 And it came to pass, while the builders were at the base of the temple, that the priests wore ceremonial robes and sounded trumpets, and the sons of Azah, the Leviticals, struck cymbals, and stood as David the king of Israel, as David had made.

3:11 And they sang and praised Shayah and Hohua and said, He is good, and he is always loving to the Israelis. When they praised Yahweh, the people shouted, and the foundation of Yahweh and the temple had been established.

3:12 But many priests, Levites, and patriarchs, who had seen the old house, wept with their own eyes when they saw the foundation of the temple. there were also many people cheering loudly .

3:13 Even the people could not distinguish between the sound of cheering and the sound of crying, because the people shouted and heard far away.

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In the process of reconstruction, the Jews faced many difficulties and challenges, such as opposition from neighboring countries and insufficient resources. However, they still gave it their all and kept working hard to finally complete the reconstruction of the temple.

After the completion of the temple, the chapter also describes how to restore the law of sacrifice and the observance of God, including daily burnt offerings, feast offerings, and sin offerings. Through these sacrifices, the people of Israel were able to rediscover God, build a new relationship with God, and gain the strength and support to face the challenges ahead.

Overall, this chapter describes the difficulties and challenges faced by the people of Israel in rebuilding the temple and how they overcame them through faith and effort to restore the law of sacrifice and keeping. It also foreshadowed the imminent re-establishment of the Jewish nation under God's protection.

Ezra chapter 3 contains some important verses, the most famous of which is the following:

They built on the foundations of the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the work has been going on ever since. And they offered burnt offerings at the feasts, as David the God of Israel had commanded. And they offered the regular burnt offering, and every morning and evening, and all the feast offerings and other sacrifices that were written in the book of the Law of Moses.

—Ezra 3:6-8.

This passage describes what the people of Jerusalem did as they rebuilt the temple. They built on the foundations of the house of God in Jerusalem and offered burnt offerings at the feasts, as David the God of Israel had commanded. They also offered regular burnt offerings, morning and evening, according to the feast offerings and other sacrifices according to the Book of the Law of

Moses. This shows that rebuilding a temple is not only a physical project, but also involves the practice of worship and faith in God. This passage also highlights the faith and obedience of the Jews to God. They showed their godliness and obedience by respectfully offering sacrifices in accordance with God's laws and regulations. It also shows that the Jews have begun to return to God's plan and are doing their best to follow God's laws and commands.

Thus, this passage in Ezra chapter 3 emphasizes the Jewish practice of worship and faith, as well as their faith and obedience to God. This also laid the groundwork for the later rebuilding of the temple and the maintenance of the tradition of worship. Ezra 3 describes the process by which the Israelites rebuilt the temple of God after their return to Jerusalem. This chapter

The central ideas of theology relate to the restoration of worship, the presence of God and the fulfillment of promises, and thanksgiving and praise to God.

Theological Central Ideas:

**Restoration of Worship:** In Ezra 3, when the Israelites returned to Jerusalem, they immediately set about rebuilding God's temple. This marked the resumption of their worship and their return to godliness and worship. Rebuilding the temple is

They restored the symbol of a right relationship with God and exalted God's name again among them.

**God's Presence and the Fulfillment of Promises:** In Ezra 3, when the people begin to rebuild the foundations of the temple, they shout and praise God. This symbolizes the re-coming of God's presence among them, and God's promise to be with them and lead them to rebuild God's family. God's promise to the people of Israel was fulfilled, and He answered their prayers so that they could begin this important work.

**Thanksgiving and praise to God:** In Ezra 3, people offer their hearts of thanksgiving and praise to God at the beginning of the work of rebuilding the temple. They sang hymns of praise for God's greatness and grace. Thanksgiving and praise became an important part of their worship, demonstrating gratitude and love for God.

Theological gains:

**Valuing Worship and God's Presence:** Ezra 3 teaches us to value worship and God's presence. Worship is who we are

The way we draw close to God, God's presence is the key to rebuilding and restoring our relationship with God.

Faith by God's promises: Ezra 3 reminds us that faith is by God's promises. When we rely on God's

Words and promises, God will accomplish His plan and manifest His presence in our lives.

Attitude of gratitude and praise: Ezra chapter 3 emphasizes an attitude of gratitude and praise. In all circumstances, let us give thanks and praise to God for His greatness and grace.

Overall, Ezra 3 teaches us to value worship and God's presence, to have faith in God's promises, and to respond to God's love and promises with gratitude and praise. These theological ideas will help us continue to grow in our faith and live a life that glorifies God.

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