



Rice Memorial MBC

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The Temple Restored

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **July 7, 2013**

***Worship with us** at **3201 Mary St** until we rebuild our sanctuary at 802 W. 15th,
... We're just behind Kaufman's Lumber Company in Little Rock Arkansas*

Ezra 3:8-13

Introduction: In the close of the foregoing chapter we left Israel in their cities, but we may well imagine what a bad posture their affairs were in, the ground untilled, the cities in ruins, all out of order; but here we have an account of the early care they took about the **re-establishment** of religion among them. Thus did they lay the foundation well, and begin their work at the right end. I. They set up an altar, and offered sacrifices upon it, kept the feasts, and contributed towards the rebuilding of the temple, Ezra 3:1-7. II. They laid the foundation of the temple with a mixture of **joy** and **sorrow**, Ezra 3:8-13. This was the day of small things, which was not to be despised, Zechariah 4:10.

(Source: *The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible* classic.studylight.org/com/mhc)

Ezra 3:8-9, 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. 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 (temple)** of God: the sons of Henadad, with their sons and their brethren the Levites.

NOTE: ...and **appointed the Levites from twenty years old and upwards to set forward the work of the house of the Lord**; to put men to work upon it, and direct them what to do, and urge them to attend closely to it; ever since David's time the Levites were employed at twenty years of age, when before not till thirty, or twenty five...

(Source: biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/)

1 Chronicles 23:24, These were the sons of Levi after the house of their fathers; even the chief of the fathers, as they were counted by number of names by their polls, that did the work for the service of the house of the LORD, from the age of **twenty years** and upward.

Numbers 4:1-3, And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, Take the sum of the sons of Kohath from among the sons of **Levi**, after their families, by the house of their fathers, From **thirty years old** and upward even until **fifty years old**, all that enter into the host, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation.

Numbers 8:23-26, And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, This is it that belongeth unto the Levites: from **twenty** and **five years old** and upward they shall go in to wait upon the service of the tabernacle of the congregation: And from the age of **fifty years** they shall cease waiting upon the service thereof, and shall serve no more:

But shall minister with their brethren in the tabernacle of the congregation, to keep the charge, and shall do no service.

Thus shalt thou do unto the **Levites** touching their charge.

Ezra 3:10-11, *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. 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 (temple) of the LORD was laid.*

NOTE: *And they sang together by course...* They sang by turns in responses, and answered one another, as the word signifies; when one company had performed their part, another took theirs...

(Source: biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/)

NOTE: All of the ceremonies mentioned here would seem to have been something like what is known today as "Ground breaking." It is a major misassumption to suppose that the structural foundations of the Second Temple were at this time completed. Years would pass before that could occur, during which the opposition of the "peoples of the land" would be vented against Israel in their full hostility.

Bowman, of course, insisted that what took place here occurred during the reign of Darius I, Sept. 21, 520 B.C. This writer, however, believes that there were **two occasions** when the **foundation** "was laid," and that the one in 520 B.C. was the second. This chapter plainly states that the first time was during the reign of **Cyrus**, or at least leaves that impression. (Source: *Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament* classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

Ezra 3:12-13, *But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house (temple), when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: 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.*

NOTE: Finding they were now restored to their own land, and to the worship of their God in his own peculiar city: these, in general, had not seen the **original temple**; and therefore could not feel affected in that way which the **elderly** people did.

The sight must have been very affecting: a whole people, one part crying aloud with **sorrow**; the other shouting aloud for **joy**; and on the same occasion too, in which both sides felt an equal interest! The prophet *Haggai* **comforted** them on this occasion by assuring them that the glory of this latter house should exceed that of the former, because the Lord (Jesus Christ) was to come to this temple, and fill it with his glory. See *Haggai*, *Haggai* 2:1-9. (Source: *The Adam Clarke Commentary* classic.studylight.org/com/acc/)

Thought 1. The Lord will always comfort his people by inspiration from the Holy Spirit as the need arises. Even today, the gift of prophecy will be manifested among us Christians as God sees fit. We just need to recognize the various manifestations of it and receive comfort.

1 Corinthians 14:2-4, For he that speaketh in an *unknown tongue* speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth *him*; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. But he that **PROPHESIETH** speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and **comfort**. He that speaketh in an *unknown tongue* **edifieth** himself; but he that **prophesieth** **EDIFIETH** the church.

Prophecy defined 4395, to foretell events, speak under inspiration, exercise the prophetic office.

Edifieth defined 3618, (figuratively) confirm (1. to settle. 2. to make certain; to give new assurance of truth or certainty. 3. strengthen; as, to confirm an opinion, a purpose or resolution.):-- **embolden** (to give boldness or courage; encourage).

Edify, instruct and improve the mind in knowledge generally, and particularly in moral and religious knowledge, in faith and holiness.

Haggai 2:1-9, In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the LORD by the **prophet** Haggai, saying, Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying, Who is left among you that **sa** this **house (temple)** in her **first glory?** And how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing? Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: **for I am with you**, saith the LORD of hosts: According to the word that I **covenanted** with you when ye came out of Egypt, so **my spirit** remaineth among you: fear ye not. For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and **I will fill this house** with **glory (splendor [magnificence])**, saith the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

The **glory** of this **latter house (temple)** shall **be greater** than of the **former**, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 4:8-10, Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this **house (temple)**; his hands shall also **finish** it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. For who hath **DESPISED** the day of **small things?** for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven...

Despised defined 936, to disrespect (want of respect or reverence; disesteem [feel an absence of esteem { high value; great regard} for. 1913 Webster's Dict.]).

NOTE: The meaning of this is, **'Do not despise the day of small things.'** It is a plea not to run with the crowd and become guilty of its foolish judgments. There were many in Israel who needed that warning. Being long accustomed to the **traditional opulence** (RICHES and **glory** of their kings and the **grandeur** of the first temple, many of them wept when they first beheld the foundations of Zerubbabel's temple. To the UNenlightened mind the greatest achievement both in the making and in its completion seems trivial (of little worth or importance). (Ezra 3:12,13). (Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

Thought 2. Today, this advice also holds true for us. The UNenlightened mind still sees beginnings of this type as trivial (of little worth or importance). For this same reason, some pastors of today, either can't appreciate what God is doing that seems trivial or won't start a work God has ordained in overseeing a small congregation because they're looking at the "large grand buildings with a whole lot of people." We need to learn to keep our eyes on the "vision" God has given us and find ourselves pleasing him. The APPROVAL we should be seeking is that which comes from our Father. We cannot serve two masters.

2 Corinthians 10:17-18, But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For NOT he that commendeth himself is **approved**, but whom the Lord **commendeth (commend [praise { act of approving; a liking}])**.