

## Restoring the Broken

November 12, 2006

“Baby Steps”

Ezra 3:1-13

Ezra continues the story exactly where it left off at the end of 2 Chronicles. God is fulfilling his promise (Jeremiah 29) to restore his people to their homeland. It seemed their days of glory were over, yet, as the returning exiles gathered to worship, they came to grips with a renewed awareness of the presence of Jehovah God.

**Idea: Restoration happens in a context of worship.**

### 1. They Rebuilt an Altar (v 3:1-3)

- Question #1: What is the AUTHORITY for worship?

“The Father in Heaven \_\_\_\_\_ our worship.”

*“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.” John 4:23*

- Question #2: What is the OBJECT of worship?

“The \_\_\_\_\_.”

### 2. They Re-laid a Foundation (v 3:8-11)

- Question #3: Where is the PLACE to worship?

“The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.”

### 3. They Reaffirmed a Priority (v 3:12-13)

In spite of their differences they held together.

*With praise and Thanksgiving they sang to the LORD: “He is good; his love to Israel endures forever.” Ezra 3:11*

## Going Deeper

1. Forty years ago, A. W. Tozer wrote, "Worship is the missing jewel of the evangelical church." Would this appraisal be true today? Why or why not?
2. How important is the attitude of a worshiper? How important is preparation for worship?
3. In your personal appraisal of worship, how much is measured by what you "get out of it?" Does what I "get out of worship" matter to God?
4. If you were not pleased with some aspect of "the worship service," what steps might you take to change an attitude or how you feel?
5. Read Exodus 20:24-26. What principles can you find related to your own altar (personal quiet time / devotions / time with the Lord)?
6. Is the music of worship a part of your daily life? Suggestions: Choose a worship song, chorus, or perhaps a grand old hymn to commit to memory, then rediscover the joy of singing your praise and adoration back to the Lord. Why let the "professionals" on your i-pod or CD radio have all the privilege of making music for the King. Let that time set the pace of the day. Got any other suggestions for your daily worship?
7. Share a time you were transported "in spirit and in truth" into the "Holy of Holies" for a time of worship.
8. The returning exiles sang these words: "He is good; his love to Israel endures forever." (Ezra 3:11) Putting on your insight spectacles, what are five observations you see?

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