

The Book of Ezra
Study #6
(Ezra 3:1-7)
Rebuilding the Altar!

I. The Fervency Restored (1)

A. The Month

B. The Meeting (Philippians 2:1-4)

II. The Fire Restored (2-3)

A. The People (2A)

B. The Purpose (2B)

C. The Priority (3)

III. The Feasts Restored (4-6A)

A. The Feast of Tabernacles (4)

B. The Burnt Offerings (5-6)

1. Daily Offerings

2. Other Feasts

3. Freewill Offerings (1:4; 2:68; 3:5; 8:28)

IV. The Furnishings Retrieved (6B-7)

A. The Concern(6B)

B. The Commencement (7)

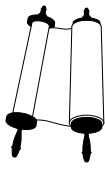
CONCLUSION:

How do you go about restoring things after God's chastening hand has been removed?

Put worship first.

Celebrate God's goodness.

Establish the foundations.



THE CEDARS OF LEBANON

There was a period of preparation for building the temple foundation. The work did not begin till the second month of the second year after their arrival (May-June 536, exactly 70 years after the first deportation in 605). Why this delay of seven months after the altar was built? Because they had to get organized and secure the building materials. The wood (cedar logs) came from Lebanon, shipped along the coast to Joppa and then carried overland to Jerusalem. Lebanon was well known for its cedar forests and its fine woodworkers. For the first temple, 430 years earlier (in 966 B.C.), Solomon had received much of his building materials (cedar, pine, and algum logs) and craftsmen from Lebanon (1 Kings 5:1-10, 18; 2 Chron. 2:1-16). Solomon began his project in the second month (May-June; 1 Kings 6:1), the same month this rebuilding began under Zerubbabel. Since Tyre and Sidon in Lebanon were under the Persian Empire, Cyrus had to authorize this transaction (cf. Ezra 6:3-4), in which the logs, as in Solomon's time, were paid for by money food drink, and oil. (*Bible Knowledge Commentary*)

EZRA: OUTLINE

I. Rebuilding the Place of God (Chapters 1-6)
 (The Ministry of Zerubbabel)

A. The Return (Chapters 1-2)

1. Proclamation of the Departure (1:1-4)

2. Provision for the Departure (1:5-11)

3. People of the Departure (Chapter 2)

B. The Rebuilding (Chapters 3-6)

1. The Restoration of Worship (3:1-7)

THE OFFERINGS

Leviticus 1-5

Listed here are the five key offerings the Israelites made to God. They made these offerings in order to have their sins forgiven and to restore their fellowship with God. The death of Jesus Christ made these sacrifices unnecessary. Because of his death, our sins were completely forgiven, and fellowship with God has been restored.

Offering	Purpose	Significance	Christ, the Perfect Offering
Burnt Offering (Lev. 1 —voluntary)	To make payment for sins in general	Showed a person's devotion to God	Christ's death was the perfect offering
Grain Offering (Lev. 2 —voluntary)	To show honor and respect to God in worship	Acknowledged that all we have belongs to God	Christ was the perfect man, who gave all of himself to God and others
Peace Offering (Lev. 3 —voluntary)	To express gratitude to God	Symbolized peace and fellowship with God	Christ is the only way to fellowship with God
Sin Offering (Lev. 4 —required)	To make payment for unintentional sins of uncleanness, neglect, or thoughtlessness	Restored the sinner to fellowship with God; showed seriousness of sin	Christ's death restores our fellowship with God
Guilt Offering (Lev. 5 —required)	To make payment for sins against God and others. A sacrifice was made to God, and the injured person was repaid or compensated	Provided compensation for injured parties	Christ's death takes away the deadly consequences of sin