

**The Book of Ezra**  
**Study #7**  
**(Ezra 3:8-13)**  
**Rebuilding the Foundation!**

**I. The Work Delegated (8-9)**

**A. Dating the Work (8A)**

**B. Dividing the Work (8B-9)**

1. **The Leaders (8B)**
2. **The Laity (8C; Eph. 4:11-12)**
3. **The Levites (8D-9)**

**II. The Work Dedicated (10-11; Lk. 9:62)**

**A. The Setting (10B)**

**B. The Singers (11A)**

1. **The Courses of the Singers (1 Cor. 14:40)**
2. **The Content of the Singers**

**C. The Shouting (11B; Col. 3:23; Ps. 32:11; 132:9)**

**III. The Work Debated (12-13)**

**A. The Concerned Voices (12A)**

**B. The Celebrating Voices (12B; Haggai 2:1-4)**

**C. The Confusing Vision (13)**

**CONCLUSION: (Philippians 3:12-14)**

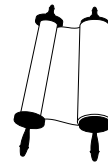
How do you go about restoring things after God's chastening hand has been removed?

**Put worship first.**

**Celebrate God's goodness.**

**Establish the foundations.**

**Look to the future.**



**Whatever Happened to the Ark of the Covenant?**

The ark was carried by the sons of Levi during the wilderness wanderings (Deut. 31:9). Carried into the Jordan River by the priests, the ark caused the waters to part so Israel could cross on dry ground (Josh. 3:6; 4:18). During the conquest of the land of Canaan, the ark was carried at the fall of Jericho (Josh. 6:4-11); later it was deposited at Shiloh, which had become the home of the tabernacle (Josh. 18:1).

Trusting the "magic power" of the ark rather than God, the Israelites took the ark into battle against the Philistines and suffered a crushing defeat (1 Sam. 4:1-11). The Philistines captured the ark, only to send it back when disaster struck their camp (1 Samuel 5 - 6). It remained at Kirjath Jearim until David brought it to Jerusalem (1 Chr. 13:3-14; 15:1-28). Solomon established it in the Holy of Holies of the Temple that he built.

At the dedication of Solomon's Temple, Aaron's rod and the golden pot of manna were gone: There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb. (1 Kin. 8:9).

Nothing is known of what became of the ark. It disappeared when Nebuchadnezzar's armies destroyed Jerusalem in 586 b.c., and was not available when the second and third temples were built. Synagogues today continue the centuries-old tradition of providing a special place for a chest or ark containing the Torah (scrolls of the Law).  
*Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary*

**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)
    2. The Rebuilding of the Temple (3:8-6:22)
      - a. Commenced (3:8-13)