

God's Story Our Story

Ezra – Worship from the Rubble

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Going Home to Worship

During the month of September everyone who had returned to Judah came to Jerusalem from their homes in the other towns.

Then Jeshua (son of Jozadak) with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel (son of Shealtiel) and his clan, rebuilt the altar of the God of Israel and sacrificed burnt offerings upon it, as instructed in the laws of Moses, the man of God. ³ The altar was rebuilt on its old site, and it was used immediately to sacrifice morning and evening burnt offerings to the Lord; for the people were fearful of attack. ⁴ And they celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles as prescribed in the laws of Moses, sacrificing the burnt offerings specified for each day of the feast. ⁵ They also offered the special sacrifices required for the Sabbaths, the new moon celebrations, and the other regular annual feasts of the Lord. Voluntary offerings of the people were also sacrificed. ⁶ It was on the fifteenth day of September^[a] that the priests began sacrificing the burnt offerings to the Lord. (This was before they began building the foundation of the Temple.) ... ¹⁰ When the builders completed the foundation of the Temple, the priests put on their official robes and blew their trumpets; and the descendants of Asaph crashed their cymbals to praise the Lord in the manner ordained by King David. ¹¹ They sang rounds of praise and thanks to God, singing this song: "He is good, and his love and mercy toward Israel will last forever." Then all the people gave a great shout, praising God because the foundation of the Temple had been laid. Ezra 3:1-11

Understanding Worship

- ✓ We all worship something.
- ✓ Worship is our response to what we value most.

- ✓ Whatever I worship becomes an obsession.
- ✓ Whatever I become obsessed with I imitate.
- ✓ Whatever I imitate I become.

“Worship changes the worshipper into the image of the One worshiped.” ~Jack Hayford

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.” Mark 12:30 (NIV)

1. God wants us to worship Him with our affections.

Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.

Psalms 150:1-6 (NIV)

- Halel – to rave, boast, celebrate.
- Yadah – to acknowledge in public.
- Barak – to bless by kneeling or bowing.
- Zamar – making music to God with strings.
- Shabach – to address in a loud tone, to shout.
- Towdah – to lift hands in adoration.
- Tehilah – exuberant singing.

➤ Pardon our noise. It’s the sound of freedom.

2. God wants us to worship Him with our attention.

Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out... Romans 12:2 (MSG)

3. God wants us to worship Him with our abilities.

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:15-16 (NIV)