

## Ezra 3

Verses 1- 3

Now when the seventh month came, and the sons of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered together as one person to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brothers the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brothers, rose up and built the altar of the God of Israel to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the Law of Moses, the man of God. <sup>3</sup> So they set up the altar on its foundation, because they were terrified of the peoples of the lands; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the Lord, burnt offerings morning and evening.

Now when the seventh month came, and the sons of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered together as one person to Jerusalem.

See chart 305

<b>The Jewish Calendar</b>			
<b>The Jews used two types of calendars</b>			
<b>The Civil: Used for kings, births, contracts &amp; The Sacred: Used for festivals</b>			
<b>Month Name</b>	<b>Corresponds to</b>	<b>Civil Year</b>	<b>Sacred Year</b>
Tishri	Sep-Oct	1st	7th
Heshvan	Oct-Nov	2nd	8th
Chislev	Nov-Dec	3rd	9th
Tebeth	Dec-Jan	4th	10th
Shebat	Jan-Feb	5th	11th
Adar	Feb-Mar	6th	12th
Nisan	Mar-Apr	7th	1st
Iyar	Apr-May	8th	2nd
Sivan	May-Jun	9th	3rd
Tammuz	Jun-Jul	10th	4th
Ab	Jul-Aug	11th	5th
Elul	Aug-Sep	12th	6th

The Jews used two calendars, one for the civil year and one for the sacred year. Since this is referring to the sacred year it is the month of Tishri.

**<sup>2</sup> Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brothers the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brothers, rose up and built the altar of the God of Israel to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the Law of Moses, the man of God.**

This altar was constructed on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Tishri (see verse 6) so it was The Feast of Trumpets.

See chart 310

Jewish Feasts						
Feast	Scripture	Date Observed	Roman Calendar	Sabbath	Offerings	Commemorates
Passover	Lev. 23:05	Nisan 14 At twilight	March/April	No	Numbers 28:16-24	Oldest son saved from death
Festival of Unleavened Bread	Lev. 23:6-8	Nisan 15-21	March/April	Day 1 & 7 Spec Sabbath	Numbers 28:16-24	The hasty flight from Egypt
Offering the First Fruits	Lev. 23:9-14	After the Sabbath	March/April	No	Numbers 28:16-24	Beginning of the barley harvest
Feast Of Weeks (Pentecost)	Lev. 23:15-22	50 days after F.F.	May/June	Special Sabbath	Numbers 28:26-31	beginning of the wheat harvest.
Festival of Trumpets	Lev. 23:23-25	Tishri 1	September	Special Sabbath	Numbers 29:1-6	Civil New Year
Day of Atonement	Lev. 23:26-32	Tishri 10	Sept/Oct	Sabbath	Numbers 29:7-11	Forgiveness of sin for the nation
Tabernacles Temp. Shelters	Lev. 23:33-34	Tishri 15-22	Sept/Oct	Day 1 & 8 Spec Sabbath	Numbers 29:12-38	Wilderness End of harvest

**<sup>3</sup> So they set up the altar on its foundation, because they were terrified of the peoples of the lands; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the Lord, burnt offerings morning and evening.**

This was dictated by the law.

See Exodus 29:38 - 39

**<sup>38</sup> “Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two one-year-old lambs each day, continuously. <sup>39</sup> The one lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight;**

Verses 4 - 5

**<sup>4</sup> They also celebrated the Feast of Booths, as it is written, and *offered* the prescribed number of burnt offerings daily, according to the ordinance, as each day required; <sup>5</sup> and afterward *there was* a continual burnt offering, also for the new moons and for all the appointed festivals of the Lord that were consecrated, and from everyone who offered a voluntary offering to the Lord.**

1. They also celebrated the Feast of booths (Tabernacles) which was kept on the 15<sup>th</sup> thru the 22<sup>nd</sup> of Tishri.

See chart 310 above

2. The Day of Atonement was supposed to be observed during this month but it could not be observed until the new temple was built.

See chart 310 above

3. The burnt offering for the new moons

See Numbers 28:11

**<sup>11</sup> ‘Then at the beginning of *each* of your months you shall present a burnt offering to the Lord: two bulls and one ram, seven male lambs one year old without defect;**

4. There were also voluntary offerings made to the Lord by any individual that desired to do so.

Upon their return to Palestine Israel was determined to follow the Law which included keeping all of the festivals in chart 310 plus the new moon and voluntary sacrifices.

Verses 6 – 7

<sup>6</sup> From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the Lord, but the foundation of the temple of the Lord had not been laid. <sup>7</sup> Then they gave money to the masons and carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians to bring cedar wood from Lebanon to the sea at Joppa, according to the permission they had from Cyrus king of Persia.

<sup>6</sup> From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the Lord, but the foundation of the temple of the Lord had not been laid.

The Altar was built on the first day of Tishri and the sacrifices were started immediately. But the building of the temple had not begun yet.

<sup>7</sup> Then they gave money to the masons and carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians to bring cedar wood from Lebanon to the sea at Joppa, according to the permission they had from Cyrus king of Persia.

See pic 315 Tyre & Sidon



The Lebanon Mountains where the cedar trees grew belonged to the king of Persia. The trees were transported from Tyre & Sidon to Joppa by way of the Sea.

See pic 320 Joppa



Verses 8 - 9

<sup>8</sup> Now in the second year of their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the rest of their brothers the priests and the Levites, and all who came from the captivity to Jerusalem, began the work and appointed the Levites who were twenty years old and upward to oversee the work of the house of the Lord. <sup>9</sup> Then Jeshua *with* his sons and brothers stood united *with* Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah *and* the sons of Henadad *with* their sons and brothers the Levites, to oversee the workmen in the temple of God.

The foundation was started in 538 BC and the temple was completed in 516 BC. The temple only took 7 years to complete if one excludes the work stoppage of 15 years.

See chart 325

Kings of Persia 559 to 330 BC			
King	Reign (BC)	Events	Year
Cyrus	559-529	Cyrus releases the Jews	539
		Foundation of temple completed	538 - 536
		Work on temple stopped	536 - 520
Cambyses	529-522		
Smerdis (Bardiya)	522		
Darius I (Hystaspes)	521-486	Work on temple begins	520
		Temple completed	516
Xerxes I (Ahasuerus)	485-465		
Artaxerxes (Longimanus)	465-424		
		Nehemiah rebuilds the wall	445
Xerxes II	424		

Various ages are given in Scripture concerning when the Levites were able to serve in the temple. Those ages varied from 20, 25, 30, and 35. The required age probably depended on the number of men available. Since only 341 Levites returned from Babylon, they lowered the age to 20.

Verses 10 - 13

**<sup>10</sup> Now when the builders had laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord according to the directions of King David of Israel. <sup>11</sup> And they sang, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, *saying*, “For *He is good*, for His favor *is upon Israel forever*.” And all the people shouted with a great shout of joy when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. <sup>12</sup> Yet many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers’ *households*, the old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, while many shouted aloud for joy, <sup>13</sup> so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the shout of joy from the sound of the weeping of the people, because the people were shouting with a loud shout, and the sound was heard far away.**

**<sup>10</sup> Now when the builders had laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord according to the directions of King David of Israel.**

We don't know for sure how long it took to lay the foundation of the temple but it was probably less than a year.

**<sup>11</sup> And they sang, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, *saying*, “For *He is good*, for His favor *is upon Israel forever*.” And all the people shouted with a great shout of joy when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.**

The Psalm they sang was Psalm 136.

**<sup>12</sup> Yet many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers’ *households*, the old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, while many shouted aloud for joy,**

The young men were filled with joy for what God had done but the older men who had seen the glory of the former temple wept. The New Temple was a mere shadow of the former temple because Israel as a nation had been reduced from a mighty nation of millions to this struggling group of 50,000 people.