

First Things First

The Place of Regathering: The Altar

Ezra 3:1-6

Steve Milikan and Ray Boltz wrote a song: The Altar

Second stanza:

A father is praying with his son, a mother kneels beside them thanking
God they've come

An Old man is standing there in tears Giving up a part of him that he 's
held back for years

Hearts are being broken lives are being changed and those who call
upon Him they will never be the same

The time has come to give in to the Lord that's what this altar is for

That's what this altar is for, you don't have to carry those burdens
anymore; there's a light in the darkness, there's a love that's true and
Jesus is waiting He waiting here for you

We find in chapter 3 the focus of Ezra the rebuilding of the altar and
temple and regathering in Jerusalem: This journey would have taken
about 4 months and covered approximately 900 miles. When Ezra
came later that is how long it took the second group (Ch. 7:9)

I. The Constructing of the Foundation of the Relationship-v.1-2 the building of the altar

The altar is where the Jews relationship was repaired and restored...it
was vital to repair the fellowship and atone for their sins before
worship began corporately.

A. They Understood the Significance of the

Month-v.1-Seventh month is the most sacred month for the
Jew. Multiple festivals to celebrate in the month

B. They Unified Solely as One Man-joined together

C. They Undertook the Scriptural Mandate-v.2 as is written

According to:

1. **The Lord's place-v.3..on it's bases...Ez 2:68**
2. **The Lord's purpose-v.2..to offer burnt offerings (both morning and evening-v.3)**
3. **The Lord's plans-Exodus 27:1-8**
 - The correct size
 - The correct substance
4. **The Lord's power-v.3-though fear of the people**

II. The Celebrating of the Festivals-v.4-6

According to the number...required-v.4 Exodus 29: 38,39

A. On the first day the Jews celebrated the Feast of Trumpets;

B. On the tenth day the Day of Atonement

C. Feast of Tabernacles the fifteenth to the twenty-first day

Numbers 29:13-34 gives instructions on what and how for the festiva lthe first day thirteen oxen, on the second twelve, etc.
v.13, v.17, v.20, v.23, v.26, v.29, v.32, v.35

D. New Moons

The seventh new moon of the religious year, being that of Tishri, commenced the civil year, and had a significance and rites of its own. It was a day of holy convocation. The religious observance of the day of the new moon may plainly be regarded as the consecration of a natural division of time.

Smith's Bible Dictionary: Comprising Antiquities, Biography, Geography, Natural History, Archaeology and Literature.

Conclusion: Could we join as one man at this place (the altar) for the Lord's purpose in the Lord's power