

# EZRA + NEHEMIAH

*Restoring Foundations*

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

An expression that communicates an order of priority.

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*Restoring Worship:* EZRA 3:1-13

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EZRA 3:1-13



# EZRA 2:70

“Now the priests and the Levites, some of the people, the singers, the gatekeepers and the temple servants lived in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.”

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# EXODUS 19:4-6

“You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings, and brought you to Myself. Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

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# 1 PETER 2:5, 9

“You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ ... But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession...”

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*Restoring Worship:* EZRA 3:1-13

But without a restoration of worship, then a restoration of a nation means absolutely nothing.

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*Restoring Worship:* EZRA 3:1-13

# LUKE 9:24-25

“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?”

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# EZRA + NEHEMIAH

*Restoring Worship*

EZRA 3:1-13

# 1. Loving God Restores Our Worship



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# 1. LOVING GOD RESTORES OUR WORSHIP

- Verse 1: “Now when the seventh month came... the people gathered together as one man to Jerusalem.”

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Restoring Worship: EZRA 3:1-13

# 1. LOVING GOD RESTORES OUR WORSHIP

- **Verse 1:** “Now when the seventh month came... the people gathered together as one man to Jerusalem.”
- **Verse 4:** “They celebrated the Feast of Booths, as it is written, and offered the fixed number of burnt offerings daily, according to the ordinance, as each day required.”

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*Restoring Worship:* EZRA 3:1-13



# 1. LOVING GOD RESTORES OUR WORSHIP

- Feast of Booths:

This week-long celebration was a time to remember God's provision through the current harvest, as well as His provision and protection during their 40 years in the wilderness - after the Exodus from Egypt.

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# 1. LOVING GOD RESTORES OUR WORSHIP



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Restoring Worship: EZRA 3:1-13

# 1. LOVING GOD RESTORES OUR WORSHIP

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”

~ John 3:16

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*Restoring Worship:* EZRA 3:1-13



# 1. LOVING GOD RESTORES OUR WORSHIP

“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

~ 1 John 3:16

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Restoring Worship: EZRA 3:1-13



# 1. LOVING GOD RESTORES OUR WORSHIP

- Love is selfless and sacrificial.



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# 1. LOVING GOD RESTORES OUR WORSHIP

- Love is selfless and sacrificial.
- This remnant that returned displayed a true *Love for God* by the way they selflessly and sacrificially gave of their own wants and interests for the purpose of prioritizing Him!

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# 1. LOVING GOD RESTORES OUR WORSHIP

Their exodus was for the restoring of a people who would be shaped and moved and defined by the God they worshiped and the God they loved.

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# EZRA + NEHEMIAH

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EZRA 3:1-13



1. Loving God Restores Our Worship
2. Trusting God Restores Our Worship

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## 2. TRUSTING GOD RESTORES OUR WORSHIP

“So they set up the altar on its foundation, for they were terrified because of the peoples of the lands; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, burnt offerings morning and evening.”

~ Ezra 3:3

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## 2. TRUSTING GOD RESTORES OUR WORSHIP

Their response to fear was a declaration, even a celebration, that God was powerful and mighty to save.

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EZRA 3:1-13



1. Loving God Restores Our Worship
2. Trusting God Restores Our Worship
3. Obeying God Restores Our Worship

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### 3. OBEYING GOD RESTORES OUR WORSHIP

“Then the LORD appears to Abram and said, ‘I will give this land to your offspring.’ So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.”

~ Ezra 3:7

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### 3. OBEYING GOD RESTORES OUR WORSHIP

It's because the altar was the place of consecration - it was the place where we would make ourselves right with God (through a sacrifice).

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# 3. OBEYING GOD RESTORES OUR WORSHIP

Without the shedding of blood,  
there can be no forgiveness.

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### 3. OBEYING GOD RESTORES OUR WORSHIP

“Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.”

~ Hebrews 10:11-12

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