

**04 – Ezra 3:7-13 – Joy and Sadness****The story so far**

- 1) God's good and perfect creation
- 2) Sadly God's people want to be like God
- 3) Gen 3:15, God promised to fix the problem and reverse the effects of the fall
- 4) Gen 12 ... A promise to Abraham.
- 5) Sadly sin kept its grip on humanity but ... God kept his promises
- 6) People rejected God again
- 7) ...BUT then things got bad ... 722 BC
- 8) God ... sent in the Babylonian army to judge and discipline them ... exile.
- 9) If they repented, a remnant would return to Jerusalem.
- 10) Their hearts are NOW clearly focussed on the right worship of God.

**Finally work begins**

Ezra 3:8 ... the second month of the second year.

Verse 7 ... the last 7 months.

... the priests are central to the whole project.

Temple workers needed to be clean before God

**Like the first time**

they are building the temple like they did last time.

... as it was first done by God's people and revealed to them by God's word.

**YHWH is praised**

verse 11 ... people broke into song praising YHWH

... because of what the temple represented for the people.

- YHWH dwelt in their midst.
- The place they could be reconciled to YHWH again.
- YHWH could be praised and celebrated

verse 11, "He is good, his love endures forever".

**...as people weep**

v 12 - 13 ... people also wept.

**For us today****The temple today**

The temple building and the sacrificial system associated with it has NO bearing on how we worship God today under the New covenant.

John 2:13-23 - Jesus makes a claim about his own body replacing the temple.

John 4:21-24 - the temple in Jerusalem no longer being important for how God is worshipped.

Hebrews 9-13

The story is not yet over

We should be reading Ezra expecting something more.

See Ezekiel 40-44

Hebrews 9:9 ... a shadow of the things to come

Revelation 21:3 ... no temple in heaven because God's dwelling place is now with the people.