



DIGGING DEEPER

Ezra 3-4 – Rebuild

PLEASE READ – Ezra 3-4

SUMMARY...

On return from exile God's people commit fully to the rebuilding work, beginning with the altar as they prioritise their walk with the Lord. Only then do they give themselves to the rebuilding of the temple which later comes to a standstill due to increasing opposition.

GETTING STARTED

What was it that led to God's people coming home? (See Ezra 1v1 and Ezra 1v5)

1) REBUILDING THE... ALTAR (3v1-6)

Why do the people assemble together 'as one' in Jerusalem?

What does the author want us to understand about the rebuilding of the altar? (see 3v3 and 3v6)

What is the significance of the altar being built first?

What should we prioritise as Christians? Are we? What needs to change in your daily routines?

2) REBUILDING THE... TEMPLE (3v7-13)

Why are the people rejoicing in v10-11?

Why is the rejoicing mixed with weeping in v12-13?

How can we cultivate a sense of joy as we labour for the Lord?

What reasons are there for Christians to weep?

3) EXPECT... OPPOSITION (4v1-24)

Why do you suppose the opposition goes after the leaders first? (4v1-3)

What do you notice about the opposition in 4v4-5? Examine the language...

What is the spiritual reality behind Ezra chapter 4? (See Ephesians 6v10-18)

How can we help each other stand firm?

What does it look like to 'always keep on praying?'

Meditate on the words of Paul below...

Ephesians 6v18: And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.