

## The priority of worship

### Ezra 3

- I. The altar – A longing to worship motivated the returning exiles to first rebuild the altar at the temple site (Ezra 3:1-6).
  - A. The people resettled in their homes and then gathered at the temple site (3:1)
  - B. Zerubbabel and Jeshua the priest rebuilt the altar in spite of fear of the surrounding people (3:2-3).
  - C. The exiles celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles with burnt offerings (3:4-6).
  
- II. The temple foundation – A longing to worship motivated the returning exiles to start the temple foundation (Ezra 3:7-13).
  - A. They hired skilled workers and gathered materials to rebuild the temple (3:7).
  - B. Levites supervised the work (3:8-9).
  - C. Priests and Levites led joyful worship as the foundation of the temple was laid (3:10-11).
  - D. While most people rejoiced, those who remembered the glory of the previous temple wept (3:12-13).