

A PATTERN FOR WORSHIP RESTORATION (Ezra 3:1-13)

I. Go to the right source (vs.1-2).

- A. The people came together to keep the feast of tabernacles that God had commanded them to keep in Numbers 29:12ff.
- B. Notice how they got the directions for keeping this feast (vs. 2b).
- C. They went to God's word to see what needed to be done to properly follow this command to observe the feast of tabernacles.
- D. They came at the right time - the 7th month.
 - 1. God had told Moses that He wanted the people to come together for this feast on the 15th day of the 7th month.
 - 2. This was the proper time to observe this feast.
 - 3. No other time was acceptable.
- E. They offered the right offerings.
 - 1. Numbers 29 gives explicit detail as to what offering was to be made and when.
 - 2. They even built the altar in the way God had described to Moses, on which they could make these offerings.
- F. They came to the right place - Jerusalem.
 - 1. Moses had told them that God would put His name in a place to be worshiped (Deuteronomy 12:5).
 - 2. This place was Jerusalem and we know that because that is where David brought the ark and where Solomon built the temple, both allowed by God.
- G. All of this they learned from God's word.
- H. If anyone today wants to worship God properly, they need to go to the right source, which is the New Testament.
- I. This book plainly tells us how God wants to be worshiped.
 - 1. He tells us to pray.
 - 2. He tells us to give only on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
 - 3. He tells us to partake of the Lord's Supper only on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7).
 - 4. He tells us to teach.
 - 5. He tells us to sing using our voices (Ephesians 5:19).
- J. Anything else done in worship comes from a different source and is not approved or authorized by God.
- K. Anyone can worship God in these ways if they will simply go by God's word.

II. Be willing to make a sacrifice (vs. 3-7).

- A. God had commanded Moses for there to be sacrifices offered at both morning and evening.
 - 1. Also, sacrifices were to be made at the new moon and the feasts.
 - 2. Up to now, this had been neglected for many years.
 - 3. To be right with God and worship Him properly, as well as to deal

- with their sins, they were willing to make these sacrifices.
- B. A sacrifice was willingly made for us by God in the person of Jesus (Hebrews 10:10).
 - 1. This sacrifice was made for our sins (2 Corinthians 5:21).
 - 2. It was necessary because only blood can wash away sins (Hebrews 9:22).
 - 3. Thankfully, this offering only had to be made once (Hebrews 10:12), unlike the offerings of the Mosaic Law.
 - C. This sacrifice by Jesus was made so that mankind could be saved (Hebrews 10:4; John 3:16).
 - D. Once we realize that a sacrifice has been made for us, if we want to worship God, we must make a sacrifice as well.
 - 1. This sacrifice is a sacrifice of self (Romans 12:1).
 - 2. We humble ourselves before God and do His will at the sacrifice of our own (Matthew 18:4; James 4:6, 10).
 - 3. We give ourselves to His work and will.
 - 4. We sacrifice our fleshly wants and wishes in order to be right with God and have Him on the throne of our hearts.
 - E. We will sacrifice what we want in worship for what God has commanded.
 - F. Will worship is sinful (Colossians 2:20-23).

III. **Build upon the proper foundation (vs. 8-13).**

- A. The Israelites had neglected the building of the temple and needed to get to work on why they returned.
 - 1. Finally, they did so and when it was built there was rejoicing on their part.
 - 2. Also, there were tears of sadness from the older generation who remembered Solomon's temple and its grandeur.
 - 3. All of these mixed together in sound before God.
- B. In order for them to worship properly, they needed the temple rebuilt and there was the foundation there for it.
- C. If we want to be right with God, we must build on the proper foundation, which is Jesus (1 Corinthians 3:10-11).
 - 1. The only truth out there is the truth that Jesus offers (John 14:6).
 - 2. This truth is the word of God (John 17:17).
- D. Many people try and build on foundations of men.
 - 1. Belief systems devised by men are fatal and faulty.
 - 2. Whenever we build on something other than Jesus, we will suffer the same fate as the foolish man who built his house on the sand.
- E. Our spiritual lives will be sturdy and durable if we build on Jesus.
 - 1. He is the Rock to which we must anchor our lives (Hebrews 6:19).
 - 2. We can withstand the storms when we build on Jesus, but all other foundations crumble and fail.