

# LED TO THE ALTAR

“Faithful to Fulfill: A Study of God as Revealed in Post-Exilic Scripture”  
Ezra 3:1-7 / Part 3 / Pastor Matthew Jones  
www.delreychurch.com

## Memorials and Sacrifices

## Migration and Saints (Ezra 1-2)

## Month of Seventh (Ezra 3:1-2)

## Morning and Sunset (Ezra 3:3-5)

## Money and Sanctuary (Ezra 3:6-7)

## Messiah and Sanctification

## COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

### Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. This week our study of Ezra 3 included a short survey of altars in the Bible. Discuss the meaning of altars and their theological significance in key places of the storyline of redemption in Scripture. (For help with this question see the following article online at <https://www.gotquestions.org/what-is-an-altar.html>).
2. One of the functions of altars in the Bible is to serve as memorials or testimonies for God's work in salvation history (e.g. Deuteronomy 27:4-7). In your own personal history and family, what are some physical things or places that when you look at them (or think about them) they remind you of God's faithfulness to you in the gospel and His sanctifying work in your life? Share.
3. In our study of Ezra 3, we saw the people of God encountering opposition for setting up an altar to God in the land of promise. It is likely that the location of where they built their altar had previously been desecrated by pagan altars over the time that God's people were in exile. That said, they needed to tear down in order to build. With this in mind and thinking about your own personal spiritual state/story before God, what things in your life might there be in need of a metaphorical tear down in order for you to build up your own life as a living altar that bears witness to Jesus? Discuss and share about how your life is (or can be) like an altar of worship and witness for the triune Lord through Christ's church to the world. As you share, try to make it truly tangible and really practical with real life examples of things and also real life hopes for being a more holy and loving model of the Lord to the watching world in these days.
4. In Ezra 3, we see the people of Israel returning to the land after war devastated them and many years of national oppression and turmoil. Imagine if you were exiled from your current neighborhood and life for a decade or so, what would be the top 5 things you would miss and be eager to see or rebuild if gone? Discuss. Thinking about these top 5 answers, how might you be able to commit today to using those places or things for active witness of the gospel of Christ and extending His common grace in our broken world? Share.
5. In our study of Ezra 3 we considered the significance of the textual reference to the "seventh month." Discuss the importance of this month (for help see <https://www.gotquestions.org/Feast-of-Tabernacles.html>) and how this holy season ties into the person and work of Jesus Christ to save His people.
6. In application of our study of Ezra 3, how does this text and the sermon preached to our local church call you in repentance and faith in Christ? How is Christ calling and comforting you through our study thus far of Ezra 1-3? How can the church be in prayer for you as you seek to grow in Christ and oneness with His church for sake of worship and witness in our city? Share and pray.