

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Wednesday, August 12, 2020
Ezra 3:1-6

1. What did we study in Sunday's Bible Study in chapters 1 and 2?
 - a. King Cyrus issued a decree allowing the people of Israel to return.
 - b. King Cyrus said that God had told him that the temple must be rebuilt in Jerusalem.
 - c. King Cyrus told all of the people to give silver and gold, goods and livestock, and other valuable gifts and freewill offerings to the Jews who would return to Jerusalem.
 - d. King Cyrus opened his treasury to return the temple articles to the Jews...5400 articles of gold and silver.
 - e. Over 42,000 people returned to Jerusalem and Judah.

2. What happened, according to 3:1, when the people had settled in their towns?
...the people _____ together as _____ in Jerusalem.

3. Do you think God's people still assemble in this way? Yes _____ No _____
Why or why not? _____

4. What did they do first, in verse 2? _____

5. Why did they build the alter to offer burnt offerings on it, according to 3:2? _____

6. Of all the things that they must have had to do, why do you think that the building of the altar was the most important?
 - a. I don't know.
 - b. Well...this was the method for the sacrifice for forgiveness of sins...that's pretty important, right?
 - c. It is significant that 3:1 tells us that it was the seventh month and 3:4 tells us this was the time of the "Feast of Tabernacles," which commemorated the deliverance from Egypt.
 - d. The people of God were taken into exile for not trusting God and putting Him first in their lives. It seems significant that the first major act upon their return was to gather together and obey the law of God, celebrate his deliverance in the past, and make sacrifice to Him. Perhaps a better question is what else would they have done first?

7. What does verse 3 tell us about the Jews who returned and built the altar?
 - a. It was easy to worship God.
 - b. They were afraid of the people around them.
 - c. They built the altar and worshipped no matter what.

8. Were the surroundings of the altar nice and conducive to worship, according to 3:6? Yes _____
No _____ Explain. _____

9. What gets in the way of you doing what God commands?
 - a. Fear.
 - b. The state of the building.
 - c. My surroundings.
 - d. Nothing!

10. If we equate our COVID-19 lockdown to a sort of exile, what should we do first as we return to the promised land? _____