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3 And when the seventh month had come, and the children of Israel *were* in the cities, the people gathered together as one man to Jerusalem. **2** Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brethren, arose and built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as *it is* written in the Law of Moses the man of God. **3** Though fear *had come* upon them because of the people of those countries, they set the altar on its bases; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, *both* the morning and evening burnt offerings. **4** They also kept the Feast of Tabernacles, as *it is* written, and *offered* the daily burnt offerings in the number required by ordinance for each day. **5** Afterwards *they offered* the regular burnt offering, and *those* for New Moons and for all the appointed feasts of the LORD that were consecrated, and *those* of everyone who willingly offered a freewill offering to the LORD. **6** From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD, although the foundation of the temple of the LORD had not been laid. **7** They also gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the people of Sidon and Tyre to bring cedar logs from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the permission which they had from Cyrus king of Persia.
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1. Let the work begin

- a. 3 months after the exiles arrived at Jerusalem, they began their renewed worship
 - a1. Unlike pagan religions, all sacrifices had to take place at the temple in Jerusalem
 - a2. Pagans had altars throughout their territories (over 1200 in Babylon)
- b. The 7th month (Tishri) was the Jews 1st month
 - a1. September (meaning 7th) was the 7th month until July (for Julius Caesar) & August (for Augustus Caesar) were put between June & September in the Roman calendar
 - a2. September/October held 3 important celebrations for the Jews
 - b1. Rosh Hashanah (Trumpets) = New Year
 - b2. Yom Kippur = Day of Atonement
 - b3. Succoth (huts) = Tabernacles
 - a3. Before sacrifices could be made, the altar must be built
 - a1. The altar of the temple was on the spot where David built an altar to stay the plague at the

threshing floor of Araunah (2 Sam. 24)

- a2. On the same spot that Abraham was going to sacrifice Isaac, but sacrificed a ram instead
 - a3. High Priest Jeshua (Joshua) led the priests & Levites in setting up an altar at the spot where the original was (only legitimate place)
 - d. The sacrifices at the altar for trumpets, the New Moon, Yom Kippur, & tabernacles were the first in over 70 years
 - a1. Every detail of how offerings were to be made were followed
 - a2. Even though the temple was in ruins, the altar now functioned as before
- ### 2. Jitters in Jerusalem
- a. There was a great fear of the people in the land
 - a1. The Jews were greatly outnumbered
 - a2. The Arabs, Amorites, Ammonites, Samaritans, & Edomites were not thrilled to have the Jews rebuild their temple & city
 - b. The Jews began their sacrifices with trepidation
 - a1. They were concerned for their safety
 - a2. They beseeched God for help
 - c. Real opposition would arise when Nehemiah began to build the wall around Jerusalem a century later
- ### 3. Temple trickle
- a. The Jews had 3 assets to build the temple
 - a1. King Cyrus commanded its building (the grant)
 - a2. Much \$ had been donated to build the temple
 - a3. Enough Jews had returned to provide the labor
 - b. Many hindrances to building the temple
 - a1. The material to build had to be regathered
 - a2. The people of the land opposed the building
 - a3. After the altar was built & worship resumed, there was less urgency to complete the work
 - a4. The interest of the people began to diminish
 - a5. The efforts to build seemed futile compared to the grandeur of Solomon's temple
 - c. Haggai had to motivate the Jews to complete the temple (Hag. 2)
 - a1. God would not prosper them, until his house was completed
 - a2. The purpose of returning = build temple
 - d. Following Sol.'s lead they purchased cedar from Tyre