

A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of January 19, 2020

Worship Matters

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Ezra 3:1-7](#)

¹When the seventh month came, and the children of Israel were in the towns, the people gathered as one man to Jerusalem. ²Then arose Jeshua the son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel with his kinsmen, and they 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. ³They set the altar in its place, for fear was on them because of the peoples of the lands, and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, burnt offerings morning and evening. ⁴And they kept the Feast of Booths, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number according to the rule,

as each day required, ⁵and after that the regular burnt offerings, the offerings at the new moon and at all the appointed feasts of the LORD, and the offerings of everyone who made a freewill offering to the LORD. ⁶From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD. But the foundation of the temple of the LORD was not yet laid. ⁷So they gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the grant that they had from Cyrus king of Persia.

- Where do you go for safety and what do you do when you feel threatened?
- “By the seventh month” (1)
- “Gathered as one man” (1)
- “All your males are to appear three times a year before the LORD your God in the place he chooses: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks and the Festival of Booths.” ([Deuteronomy 16:16](#))
- Why go to all this trouble? Because they are afraid of the people around them.
- What does this say about how one views the world?
- We have truth that comes to us in a narrative that we tell one another, that we reenact with one another and that shapes our identity.
- The people of God had/have the revelation of God.
- We had/have the story of how this revelation has worked and been believed by His people.
- The festivals helped to reenact, but also allow the participants to enter into the story.
- These festivals and sacrifices shape us.
- Verse 6 tells us about the beginning of sacrifices, but no Day of Atonement.
- So, rather than turn to Cyrus, diplomacy, or other means, they deal with their fear by worshiping.
- What shapes how you view the world?
- Fear (real threat) will be a revealer of how you view the world.
- There is a God.
- He is personal and loves me.
- He has tied himself to me and mine.
- His character is revealed to me in His Law and in His Gospel.