

"Renewed Hope!"

In the second month of the second year after their arrival at the house of God in Jerusalem, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak and the rest of the people (the priests and the Levites and all who had returned from the captivity to Jerusalem) began the work. They appointed Levites twenty years old and older to supervise the building of the house of the LORD. ⁹ Joshua and his sons and brothers and Kadmiel and his sons (descendants of Hodaviah) and the sons of Henadad and their sons and brothers—all Levites—joined together in supervising those working on the house of God. ¹⁰ When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the LORD, as prescribed by David king of Israel. ¹¹ With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD: "He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever." And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. ¹² But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. ¹³ No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away.

Ezra 3:8-13

Hope: A confident expectation and desire for good things to happen in the future.

Renew: To make like new, restore to freshness.

1. Renewed hope begins with steps of faith.

When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the LORD, as prescribed by David king of Israel.

V. 10

a. It takes time.

"But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."
Romans 8:25

b. It takes commitment.

They 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.

Ezra 3:13

2. Renewed hope is cultivated by praise and thanksgiving.

"With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord..."

V. 11

"...because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away."

V. 13

a. God is good.

"He is good."

V. 11

b. God is love.

"His love toward Israel endures forever."

V. 11

3. Renewed hope is maintained in community.

When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, the people assembled together as one in Jerusalem.

Ezra 3:1

But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy.

V. 12

a. God's faithful presence.

But now be strong, Zerubbabel,' declares the LORD. 'Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the LORD, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the LORD Almighty.

Haggai 2:4

b. God's gift of one another.

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 3:13

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Romans 8:25

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