

Ezra 3:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the seventh month was come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem.

Analysis

The phrase 'as one man' (Hebrew *ke'ish echad*) emphasizes the unity of God's people in gathering at Jerusalem for worship. Despite diverse tribal backgrounds and seventy years of dispersion, the returned exiles assembled with singular purpose. This unity was not manufactured but flowed from shared covenant identity and common commitment to restore true worship. The gathering in the seventh month (Tishri) was significant—the month of the Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Feast of Tabernacles, Israel's most sacred season. Theologically, this demonstrates that genuine spiritual renewal begins with unified corporate worship. The people prioritized gathering before God even before completing practical building tasks, showing proper order of spiritual priorities.

Historical Context

The seventh month (September-October 538 BC) marked approximately one year since Cyrus's decree. The returned exiles had spent months settling in their ancestral towns (Ezra 2:70), reestablishing homes and agricultural cycles. Despite ongoing hardship, they interrupted secular pursuits to assemble for worship during the appointed feasts. This gathering at Jerusalem fulfilled Deuteronomy 16:16's command that all males appear before the LORD three times yearly. Archaeological evidence shows Jerusalem remained largely in ruins, with the temple site desolate. Yet the people assembled at this sacred spot, demonstrating that God's presence, not physical structures, constitutes the essence of worship.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does the unity of the returned exiles 'as one man' teach about the relationship between doctrinal clarity and church unity?
2. How does prioritizing worship and sacred calendar over immediate practical needs challenge modern approaches to church life and spiritual formation?
3. In what ways does gathering at the ruined temple site demonstrate faith in God's promises rather than dependence on physical religious structures?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁבָא	לִ	וּבְנֵי	יִ	בְּחַ	דְּשִׁ	וְעַ	וְשָׁבַע	וְעַ
was come	month	And when the seventh	and the children	of Israel				
H5060	H2320	H7637	H1121	H3478				
בָּעֵר	יָמִ	וְאָסַף	וְ	בָּעֵר	וְ	בָּעֵר	וְ	אַל
were in the cities	gathered themselves together	the people	man	as one				
H5892	H622	H5971	H376	H259				H413
רֹשֶׁלֶם:								
to Jerusalem								
H3389								

Additional Cross-References

Acts 4:32 (Parallel theme): And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (Parallel theme): Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Leviticus 23:24 (References Israel): Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

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