

Something to Shout About

Ezra 3:10-13

BACKGROUND of text: Because of Israel's refusal to abandon their idols, God sent them into captivity by the Babylonians. Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem and destroyed Solomon's temple.

1. This captivity lasted 70 years (Jer. 25:11-12).
2. Israel lived in captivity without a temple, without feasts, or sacrifices.
3. King Cyrus overthrew the Babylonians in 539 B.C. and allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem. (About 50,000 Jews returned home).
4. Three years later, the Jews laid the foundation for the new Temple.
5. At the laying of the foundation for the new temple the people *a TOGETHER* (v. 11) in praise to the Lord for His goodness to them.

QUESTION: But, their "togetherness" was interrupted as the young men shouted for joy and the old men wept "*a d ce.*" **WHY** are the young men shouting for joy while the old men are weeping?

➡ **The Old Men = The PAST:**

1. **What They Remembered** – They remembered the first temple.
 - They remembered it's Grandeur... it's Gold... and it's Glory.
 - They remembered the glory of God that filled the first temple, 1 Kings 8:8-13; 2 Chron. 5:13-14; 7:1-3.
 - They remembered shields of gold, now replaced with shields of brass!
2. **What They Realized** – They understood the new temple wouldn't be the same—It would be smaller and not as glorious (cf. Hag. 2:3).

➡ **The Young Men = The PRESENT:**

1. **What They Remembered** – They never saw the first temple.
 - They had no frame of reference of what Solomon's temple looked like or of it's glory.
 - All they remembered was a life of captivity in a foreign land.
 - All they could remember was slavery and bondage.
 - They couldn't remember the first temple, but they were thankful for what they had!

2. **What They Realized** – The young ones couldn't remember the old days, but they could see a new day of opportunity had dawned for them and they embraced it wholeheartedly!

- These young people were excited about what God was doing in their day.
- Some people are so caught up in the past, they cannot get excited about what God is doing in the present!
- The past is gone forever and we “must” live in the present.
- Be careful you don't become trapped in the past and totally miss what God is doing today.

➡ **Bottom Line (application):**

There is a valuable lesson for us today as God continues to do something new and fresh. I sometimes hear Christian long for the old days of revivals under preachers like D.L. Moody, Billy Sunday, and Mordecai Ham. There may be a tendency to compare what God is doing today with what God did back then.

God sent the prophet Haggai to tell these people that the glory of this new temple would actually exceed the glory of the old temple (Hag. 2:9). Why? Because Jesus would walk in this new temple, and where Jesus is, the glory is infinitely greater.

Be on guard against longing after the old days. Stay young in the Spirit. Shout for joy at what God is doing now.

1. You can live your life looking back.
2. Or, you can live your life longing for what you think others have.
3. Or, you can seize the opportunities God is giving you today!
4. You can't get back yesterday.
5. However, you can get ahold of today and make the most of it!

“Shouting” is mentioned six times in these four verses. This shouting is described as “great,” “loud,” “joyful,” and “heard afar off.”

People shout at ballgames, rock concerts, protest demonstrations, winning the lottery, and political conventions. They are not ashamed to let their voice be loudly heard.

Unfortunately, there ain't much shouting in church on Sunday mornings. In some churches it is as quiet as a turkey farm on Thanksgiving afternoon. Too many are pouting instead of shouting.

Many church services resemble a funeral rather than a revival. Hey, the funeral was on Wednesday, but Jesus arose on Sunday! We're not serving a dead god... a god of wood or stone... We serve a LIVING God who lives inside every one who has been born again!

If anyone has something to shout about, it is the people of God. Our sins are forgiven... our names are written in the Lamb's book of life... we have eternal life in Christ... and we can't go to hell!

➡ We should be standing on "shouting ground." In his book, *The Hallelujah Factor*, Dr. Jack Taylor lists over 200 occasions where God's people shouted praise to the Lord!

It is significant that **first mention of the word "shout"** is connected to worship at the Old Testament tabernacle (Lev. 9:24).

But **shouting in worship DID NOT BEGIN WITH MAN, but with the angels** as God created the heavens and the earth (Job 38:1-7). *When the angels sang together, and the angels of God shouted for joy?* (Job 38:7). As God created the universe, He was accompanied by angelic beings celebrating with harmonious song (*angels together*) and unrestrained shouts of joy.

➡ It appears that **worship and shouting go together**.

Christians have **good reason to shout!** And we find that reason in the knowledge and revelation of God. Biblical worship is fundamentally a celebration of God's person and glory. The more we learn about God—who He is and what He's done — the more our hearts will be aroused in enthusiastic and expressive worship of God. Little worship indicates little knowledge of God's person.

➡ Why were those in our text shouting for joy? They were shouting because of the character of God and what God was doing:

1. Shouting because **God is GOOD** (Ezra 3:11)

2. Shouting because **God is MERCIFUL** (Ezra 3:11; Ps. 32:10-11— “... *e a e e LORD, e c a c a ab . Be ad e LORD, a d e ce, e e : a d shout for joy*”).

3. Shout because the **foundations of God’s house** are laid (Ezra 3:11).

➔ **Consider this truths about God that should move us to shout:**

- God is Sovereign. Ps 47:1-2— *O c a a d , a e e e ; SHOUT unto God e ce f . F e LORD e b e ; e a ea K e a e ea .*
- God is always the Winner... He never loses!
- God’s purposes will never be derailed or defeated.
- God is never discouraged or frustrated...
- God is never out of control...
- God is never taken by surprise...
- God never runs for cover...
- God’s promises never fail!
- God is faithful.
- God always provides — no matter how dim our situation may appear — God is always on the way with tender mercies that are fresh and new every morning.
- God has a very long fuse...
- God will always have the last word.

A sure knowledge of these truths should *e e d* of worship as one of exuberant shouting for joy.

➔ **Christian, we have something to shout about!**

1. Christ died for our sins to provide salvation.
2. God has chosen us.
3. God has redeemed us.
4. God has saved us.
5. God has forgiven our sins.
6. God has lifted us from the miry pit, placed our feet upon a solid rock, and established our goings.
7. God has given us a home in heaven.

8. God has **freed us** from the dominion of sin and death.

- “*F* *e* *a* *f* *e* *S* *f* *f* *e* *C* *J* *e* *a* **made me free from the law of sin and death.**” (Rom. 8:2).
- Romans 6:7—*F* *e* *a* *dead* **freed from sin.**
- Romans 6:18—*Be* *e* *ade* **free from sin,** *e* *beca* *e* *e* *e* *e* *a* *f* *e* *e* *.*
- Romans 6:9—*K* *a* *C* *be* *a* *ed* *f* *e* *dead* *d* *e* *e* **; death hath no more dominion over him.**
- Romans 6:14—*F* **sin shall not have dominion over you:** *f* *e* *a* *e* *de* *e* *a* *,* *b* *de* *ace*.
- “The devil made me do it.” No! He can’t make you do anything!
- If you’re walking in sin, it ain’t nobody’s fault but your own!

9. God lives inside us.

10. God clothes us with the robe of His righteousness.

11. God will never leave us or forsake us. Jesus Christ is a friend that STICKETH closer than a brother! He’s never deserts you in trouble. He’s with you in the good times—bad times... In the valleys and on the mountain top... in the storms and in the sunshine... He’s with you when you’re sick and He’s with you when you’re well.

12. God is the God of all comfort! He comforts us in our afflictions.

13. God is the God of second chances (David, Peter).

14. God always causes us to triumph (Josh. 6:5; 2 Chron. 13:14-15)

15. God supplies all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus our Lord.

16. God strengthens and helps us.

17. God defends us (Ps. 5:11—*Le* *a* *e* *a* *e* *ee* *e* *ce:* *e* *e* *e* *e* **shout for joy,** *beca* *e* *defe* *de* *e* *...*).

God is our rock, refuge, and high tower. NO WEAPON FORMED

AGAINST YOU SHALL PROSPER (Isa. 54:17—*N* *ea* *a* *f* *ed*

a *a* *ee* *a* *e* *;* *a* *d* *e* *e* *e* *a* *a* *e* *a* *a*

ee *d* *e* *a* *c* *de* *.* *T* *e* *e* *a* *e* *f* *e* *e* *-*

a *f* *e* **LORD...**)

18. God has given us His perfect and preserved Word (Psalms 56:10— *I
G d I a e d: e LORD I a e d.*).

19. God hears and answers our prayers.

20. God has promised us a new body when He raptures us out of this sin-
ful world!

*Be ad e LORD, a d e ce, e e : a d **shout for joy**, a e
a a e ea . — Psalms 32:11*