

09 November

Ezra 3|4, Hosea 6, 1 Acts 23|24



Come, and let us return unto Yahweh

They began building the Temple. “They set the altar upon his bases; for fear was upon them because of the people of those countries: and they offered burnt offerings thereon unto Yahweh, even burnt offerings morning and evening” (E3:3). But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: (E3:12) Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel they “weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building, (Ezr 4:1,4) Returning unto Yahweh required faith.

Hosea writes, “Come, and let us return unto Yahweh: for he hath tom, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. (Hos 6:1-2) for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away...I have slain them by the words of my mouth: For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. (Hos 6:4-6)

Paul cried out in the council, “Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.” (Act 23:6) Tertullus accused Paul, flattering the Romans, “Seeing that by thee we enjoy great quietness, and that very worthy deeds are done unto this nation by thy providence” (A24:2) Paul cries, “I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers. Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings.” (A24:17) Paul was returning with worthy deeds. Felix having knowledge of that way, would know more. As Paul reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled (A24:25). Come let us return that we may live.

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