

Ezra 3:10-11

*And when the builders
laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD,
the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets,
and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals,
to praise the LORD,
according to the directions of David king of Israel.
And they sang responsively,
praising and giving thanks to the LORD,
“For he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.”
And all the people shouted
with a great shout when they praised the LORD,
because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.*

There was a remarkable mixture of affections upon laying the foundation of the temple. Those that only knew the misery of having no temple at all, praised the Lord with shouts of joy. To them, even this foundation seemed great. We ought to be thankful for the beginnings of mercy, though it be not yet perfect. But those who remembered the glory of the first temple, and considered how far inferior this was likely to be, wept with a loud voice. There was reason for it, and if they bewailed the sin that was the cause of this melancholy change, they did well. Yet it was wrong to cast a damp upon the common joys. They despised the day of small things, and were unthankful for the good they enjoyed. Let not the remembrance of former afflictions drown the sense of present mercies. - *Matthew Henry, MHCC*