

# FIRM FOUNDATIONS

FOR LIVES OF FAITH



A white, two-story house with a dark roof and a chimney, built on stilts on a rocky beach. The house is on the left side of the frame. The beach is in the foreground, and the ocean is in the background. The sky is dark with some clouds, and the sun is setting, creating a golden glow on the horizon and reflecting on the wet sand. The overall mood is serene and somewhat somber.

# Nehemiah

A white house on stilts sits on a rocky beach at sunset. The sky is dark and cloudy, with a golden glow on the horizon. The ocean waves are visible in the distance, and the wet sand reflects the light.

**After Failure,  
Return to God's Faithful Love**

## After Failure, Return to God's Faithful Love:

**“For He is good,  
for His steadfast love endures forever  
toward Israel.”**

**- Ezra 3:11**

**“The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire.”**

**- Nehemiah 1:3**

**“And I said: ‘I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments, please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants...”**

**“and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father’s house and I have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.**

**Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying...”**

**“If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations; but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.’ Now these are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand...”**

**“O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.’  
For I was the king’s cupbearer.”**

**- Nehemiah 1:5-11**

**“And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.”**

**- Nehemiah 2:8**

A photograph of a white, two-story house with a dark roof, built on stilts on a rocky beach. The house is on the left side of the frame. The beach is in the foreground, and the ocean is in the background. The sky is dark and cloudy, with a bright orange and yellow glow from the setting or rising sun on the horizon. The text "Rebuilding isn't Enough" is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

**Rebuilding isn't Enough**

**“So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God.”**

**- Nehemiah 6:15-16**

**“Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel. So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month... And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people...”**

**“for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, “Amen, Amen!” while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground...”**

**“Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people stood in their place. So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading...**

**“And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep.”  
For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.”**

**- Nehemiah 8:1-9**

**“Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD  
is your strength.”**

**- Nehemiah 8:10**

A coastal scene at sunset. On the left, a white house with a dark roof sits on wooden stilts atop a rocky cliff. The foreground is a sandy beach with wet sand reflecting the golden light of the setting sun. The ocean extends to the horizon under a sky of dark, heavy clouds. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

# Firm Faith in an Unfinished Restoration

A coastal scene at sunset. In the foreground, a sandy beach is partially covered with large, dark rocks. To the left, a white, two-story house with a dark roof sits on a slight rise. The ocean extends to the horizon under a sky with soft, golden light from the setting sun. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

# Firm Faith in an Unfinished Restoration

**“Remember me, O my God, for good.”**

**“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

**- 1 John 1:9**

**“I am doing a great work,  
so that I cannot come down.”**

**- Nehemiah 6:3**

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