

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

Renewal Amongst the Ruins



Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

-Proverbs 28:13



Ezra 10

While Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, a very great assembly of men, women, and children, gathered to him out of Israel, for the people wept bitterly. 2 And Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, of the sons of Elam, addressed Ezra: "We have broken faith with our God and have married foreign women from the peoples of the land, but even now there is hope for Israel in spite of this. 3 Therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God, and let it be done according to the Law. 4 Arise, for it is your task, and we are with you; be strong and do it." 5 Then Ezra arose and made the leading priests and Levites and all Israel take an oath that they would do as had been said. So they took the oath.



Ezra 10

6 Then Ezra withdrew from before the house of God and went to the chamber of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib, where he spent the night, neither eating bread nor drinking water, for he was mourning over the faithlessness of the exiles. 7 And a proclamation was made throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the returned exiles that they should assemble at Jerusalem, 8 and that if anyone did not come within three days, by order of the officials and the elders all his property should be forfeited, and he himself banned from the congregation of the exiles.



Ezra 10

9 Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin assembled at Jerusalem within the three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month. And all the people sat in the open square before the house of God, trembling because of this matter and because of the heavy rain. 10 And Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, "You have broken faith and married foreign women, and so increased the guilt of Israel. 11 Now then make confession to the Lord, the God of your fathers and do his will. Separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives." 12 Then all the assembly answered with a loud voice, "It is so; we must do as you have said. 13 But the people are many, and it is a time of heavy rain; we cannot stand in the open. Nor is this a task for one day or for two, for we have greatly transgressed in this matter.

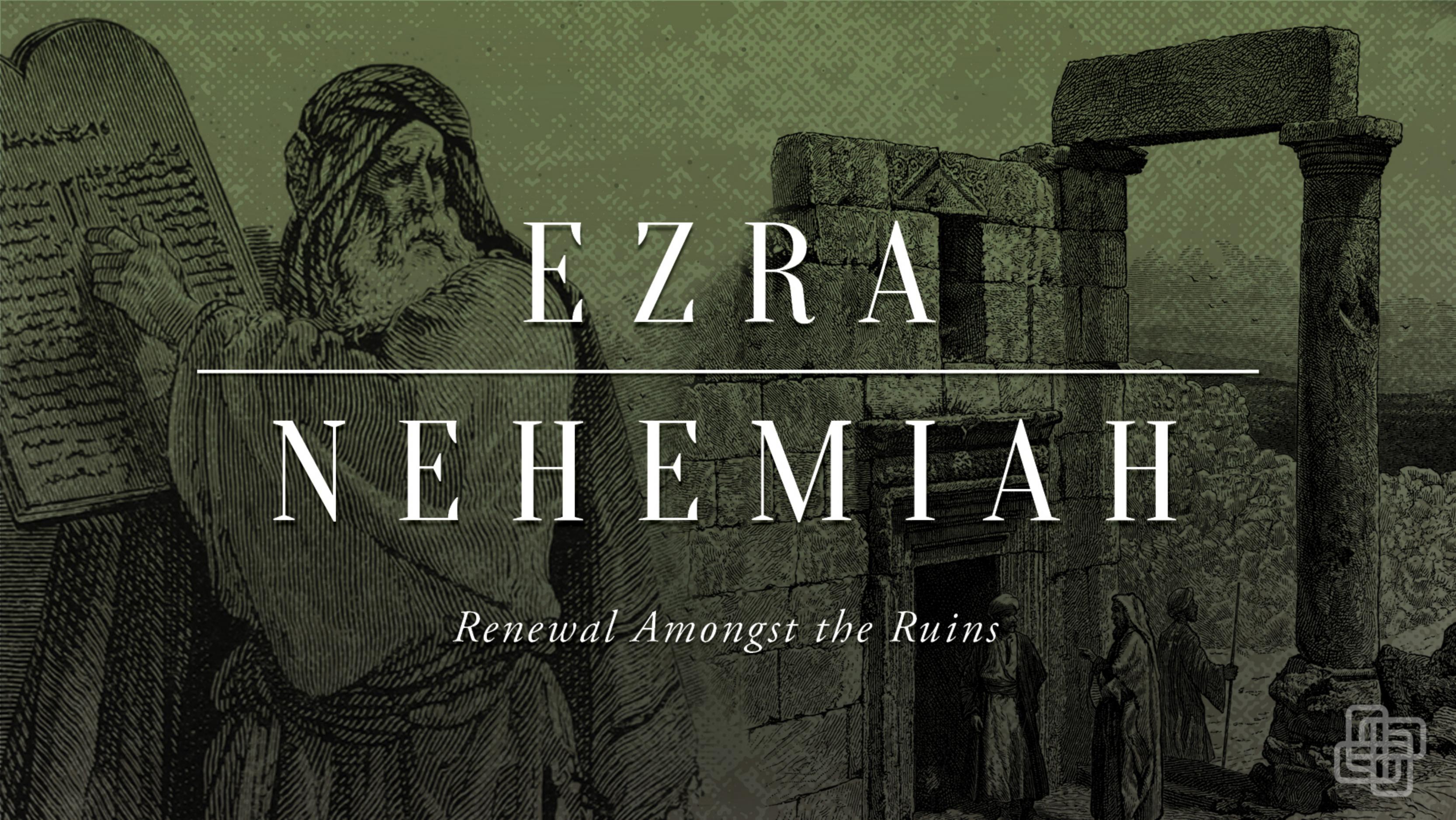


Ezra 10

14 Let our officials stand for the whole assembly. Let all in our cities who have taken foreign wives come at appointed times, and with them the elders and judges of every city, until the fierce wrath of our God over this matter is turned away from us.” 15 Only Jonathan the son of Asabel and Jahzeiah the son of Tikvah opposed this, and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite supported them.

16 Then the returned exiles did so. Ezra the priest selected men, heads of fathers' houses, according to their fathers' houses, each of them designated by name. On the first day of the tenth month they sat down to examine the matter; 17 and by the first day of the first month they had come to the end of all the men who had married foreign women.



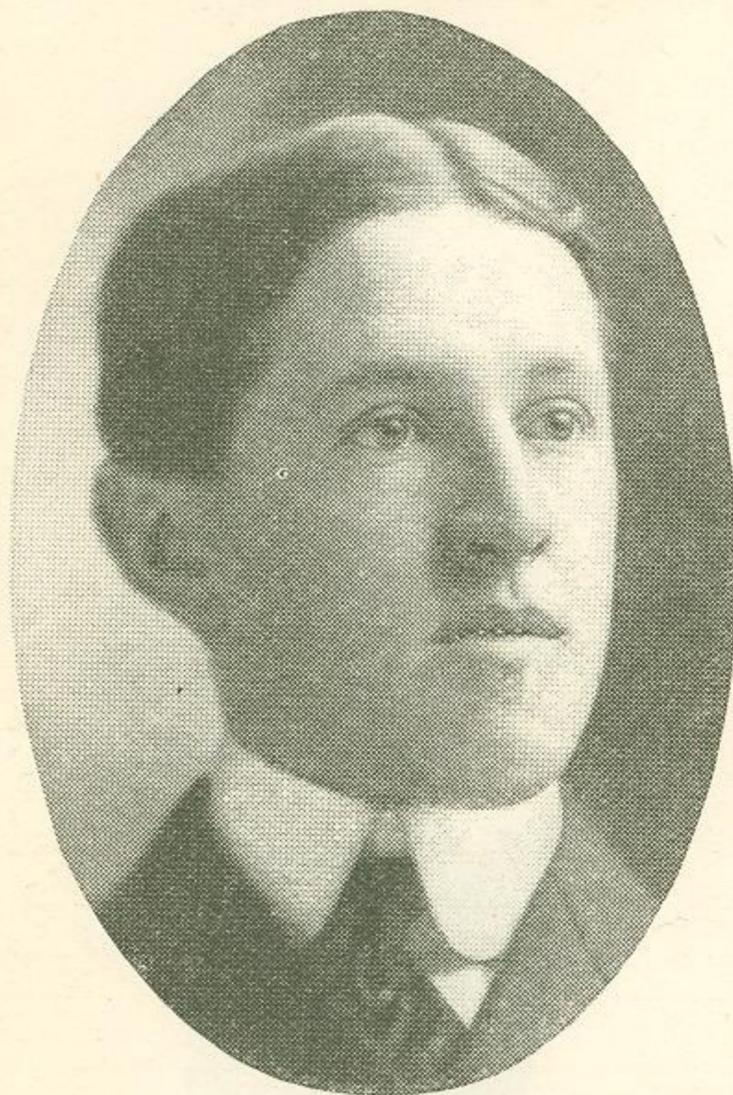


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EBEN M. BYERS, OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTRY CLUB, WHO DEFEATED TRAVIS IN LAST YEAR'S CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT, AND WAS THE RUNNER-UP BOTH IN 1902 AND IN 1903.

From a photograph by Falk, New York.



EZRA 10 | RECIPE FOR RENEWAL

Ingredients 1 & 2: Godly Sorrow & Honest Confession vs. 1-2

Utterly broken over people's sin

While Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before

Shared conviction over sin

the house of God, a very great assembly of men, women, and children, gathered to

Shared contrition over sin

An Israelite leader

him out of Israel, for the people wept bitterly. 2 And Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, of

Shared confession of sin

covenant language = marital betrayal

the sons of Elam, addressed Ezra: "We have broken faith with our God and have

no qualifiers or excuses. They just own it.

Hope = In confession (not denial)

married foreign women from the peoples of the land, but even now there is hope for

Israel in spite of this.

Regret: self-focused; sorrow over the consequences we face; leads to "try harder the next time".

Repentance: God-focused; sorrow centered on offending God; leads us to actual change, transformation, & surrender to Him & His righteousness.



EZRA 10 | RECIPE FOR RENEWAL

Ingredient 3: Decisive Obedience vs. 3-14

If they followed only YHWH, could have possibly stayed (6:21?)

3 Therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and

their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the

They couldn't intermarry pagan nations (Deut. 7:3)

commandment of our God, and let it be done according to the Law. 4 Arise, for it is

your task, and we are with you; be strong and do it.” 5 Then Ezra arose and made

To compromise could mean generational paganism

the leading priests and Levites and all Israel take an oath that they would do as had

been said. So they took the oath.

God hates divorce (Mal. 2)

**However, in marriage covenant God seeks
“godly offspring” (Mal. 2)**



EZRA 10 | RECIPE FOR RENEWAL

Ingredient 3: Decisive Obedience vs. 3-14

Rooms in the temple used by priests

6 Then Ezra withdrew from before the house of God and went to the chamber of

Fasted over their repentance

Jehohanan the son of Eliashib, where he spent the night, neither eating bread nor

drinking water, for he was mourning over the faithlessness of the exiles. 7 And a

A corporate call

proclamation was made throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the returned exiles

that they should assemble at Jerusalem, 8 and that if anyone did not come within

three days, by order of the officials and the elders all his property should be

No repentance = No possessions, place, or people
forfeited, and he himself banned from the congregation of the exiles.



EZRA 10 | RECIPE FOR RENEWAL

Ingredient 3: Decisive Obedience vs. 3-14

9 Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin assembled at Jerusalem within the three

December

days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month. And all the people

Cold, Wet, & Convicted

sat in the open square before the house of God, trembling because of this matter

and because of the heavy rain. 10 And Ezra the priest stood up and said to them,

“You have broken faith and married foreign women, and so increased the guilt of

Israel. 11 Now then make confession to the Lord, the God of your fathers and do his

Violation of Covenant; Nothing to do w/ ethnicity-everything to do w/ allegiance

will. Separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives.”



EZRA 10 | RECIPE FOR RENEWAL

Ingredient 3: Decisive Obedience vs. 3-14

12 Then all the assembly answered with a loud voice, “It is so; we must do as you

Obedience

have said. 13 But the people are many, and it is a time of heavy rain; we cannot stand

in the open. Nor is this a task for one day or for two, for we have greatly transgressed

in this matter. 14 Let our officials stand for the whole assembly. Let all in our cities

who have taken foreign wives come at appointed times, and with them the elders

and judges of every city, until the fierce wrath of our God over this matter is turned

away from us.”

Renewal does not come from simply reading about & admiring holiness. It comes from actually pursuing it.



EZRA 10 | RECIPE FOR RENEWAL

Ingredient 4: Accountable Community vs. 15-55

15 Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahzeiah the son of Tikvah opposed this, and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite supported them. 16 Then the returned exiles did so. Ezra the priest selected men, heads of fathers' houses, according to their fathers' houses, each of them designated by name. On the first day of the tenth

Process took 3 months

month they sat down to examine the matter; 17 and by the first day of the first

Even priests are named among the offenders. No one is above correction.
month they had come to the end of all the men who had married foreign women.

"There is no little sin, because there is no little God to sin against." -John Wesley

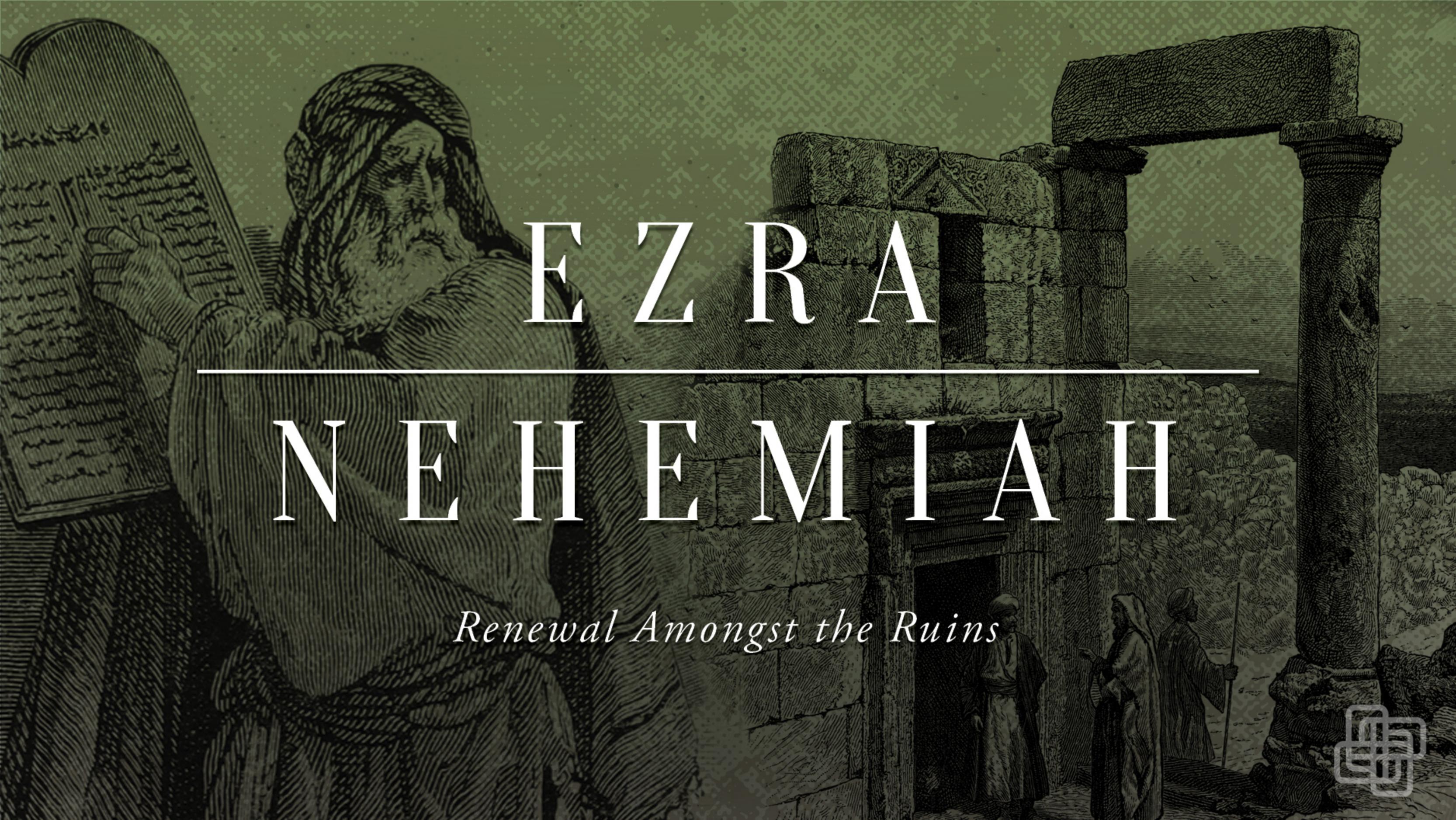


The Missing Ingredient: The True & Better Redeemer

31 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” **-Jeremiah 31:31-34**

**Ezra may show us what repentance looks like,
but King Jesus provides the power for us to live it.**



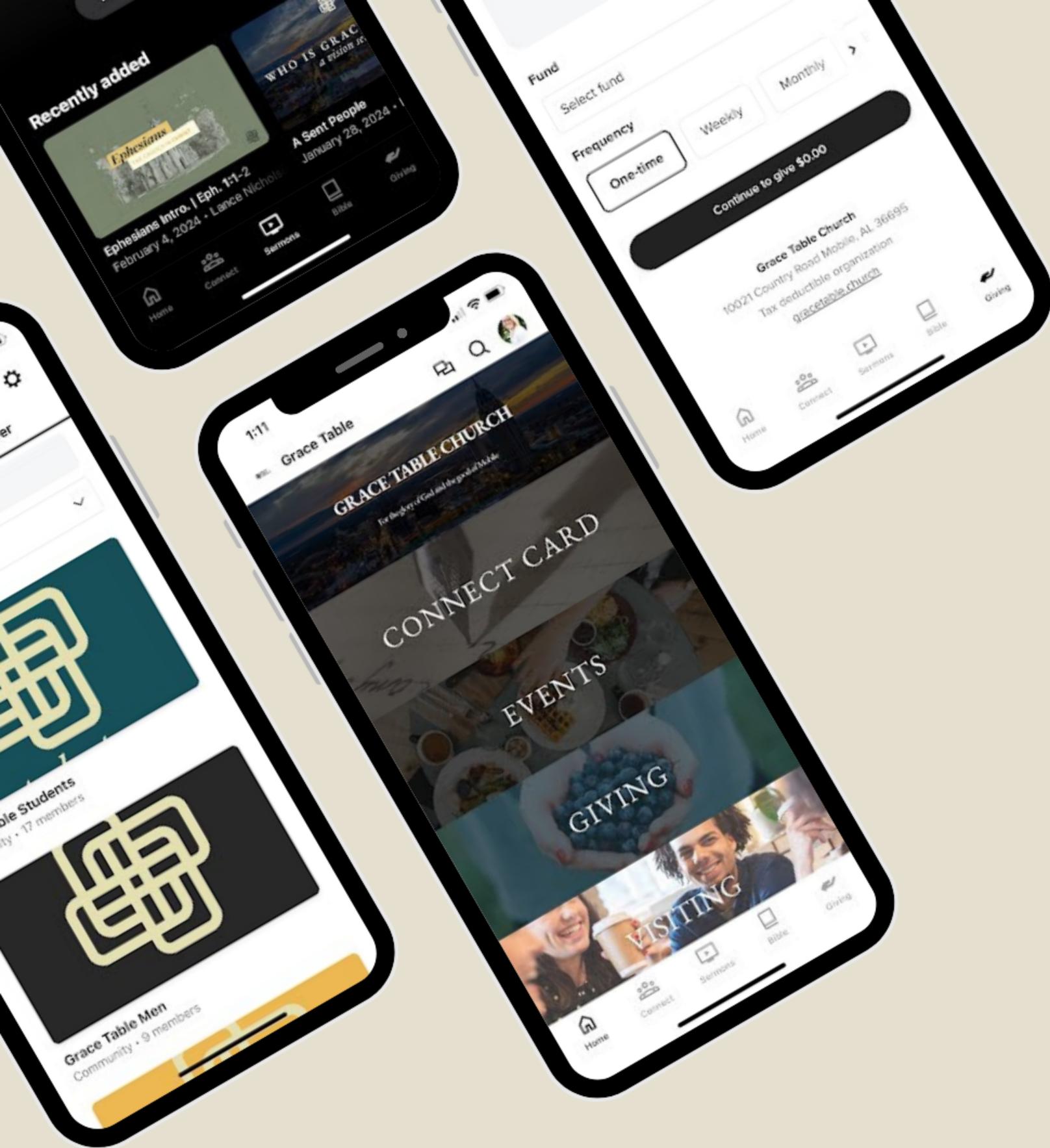


EZRA

NEHEMIAH

Renewal Amongst the Ruins





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“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

-2 Corinthians 13:14

People:

And also with you.

