

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

*Renewal Amongst the Ruins*

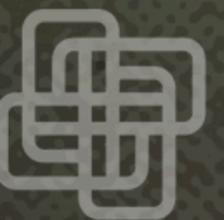


Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Psalm 100:1-2



# Ezra 6:13-22

*13 Then, according to the word sent by Darius the king, Tattenai, the governor of the province Beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai, and their associates did with all diligence what Darius the king had ordered.*

*14 And the elders of the Jews built and prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. They finished their building by decree of the God of Israel and by decree of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxerxes king of Persia; 15 and this house was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.*



# Ezra 6:13-22

*16 And the people of Israel, the priests and the Levites, and the rest of the returned exiles, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy.*

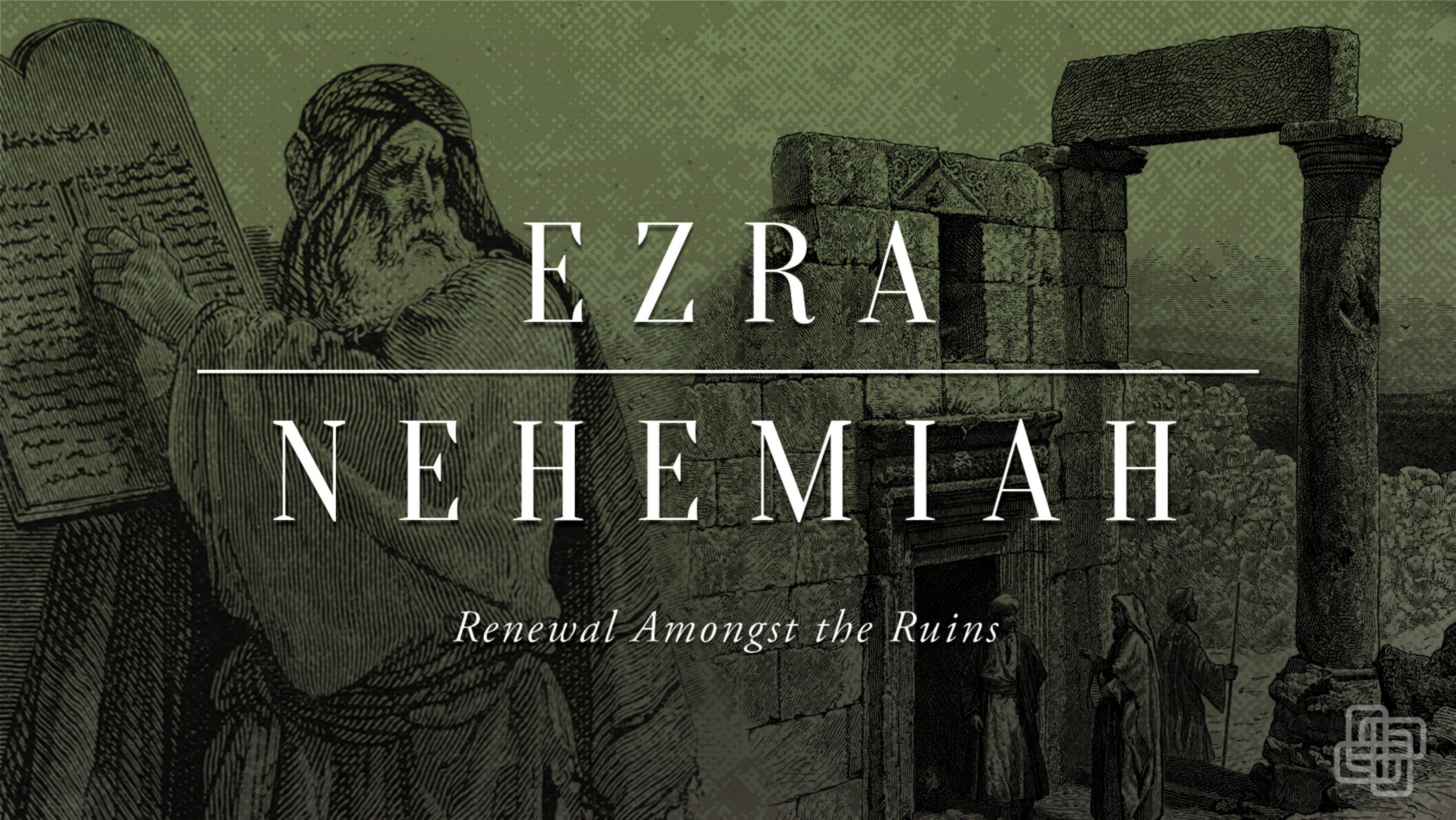
*17 They offered at the dedication of this house of God 100 bulls, 200 rams, 400 lambs, and as a sin offering for all Israel 12 male goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel. 18 And they set the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their divisions, for the service of God at Jerusalem, as it is written in the Book of Moses.*



# Ezra 6:13-22

*19 On the fourteenth day of the first month, the returned exiles kept the Passover. 20 For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves together; all of them were clean. So they slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the returned exiles, for their fellow priests, and for themselves. 21 It was eaten by the people of Israel who had returned from exile, and also by every one who had joined them and separated himself from the uncleanness of the peoples of the land to worship the Lord, the God of Israel. 22 And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the Lord had made them joyful and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, so that he aided them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.*





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# EZRA 6:13-22

## 1. God Finishes His Work and Keeps His Word (vv. 13–15) span 20yrs

Verse 14 tells us something remarkable:

“They finished their building by decree of the God of Israel...”

Christianity is not advice “Here’s what you must do” but good news “Here’s what God has done.” Ezra 6 reminds us that God finishes what He starts.

God is not intimidated by incompleteness. What He begins, He brings to completion in His time.

*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6*



# EZRA 6:13-22

## 2. God Calls His People to Joyful Obedience (vv. 16–18)

Once the temple is finished, the people respond with worship. “They celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy.”

They offer sacrifices and appoint priests and Levites according to the Law of Moses. *Their obedience flows from joy, not fear.* Religion says, “**Obey so that God will accept you.**” The gospel says, “*You are accepted, therefore you obey.*”

Biblical obedience is a response to grace.



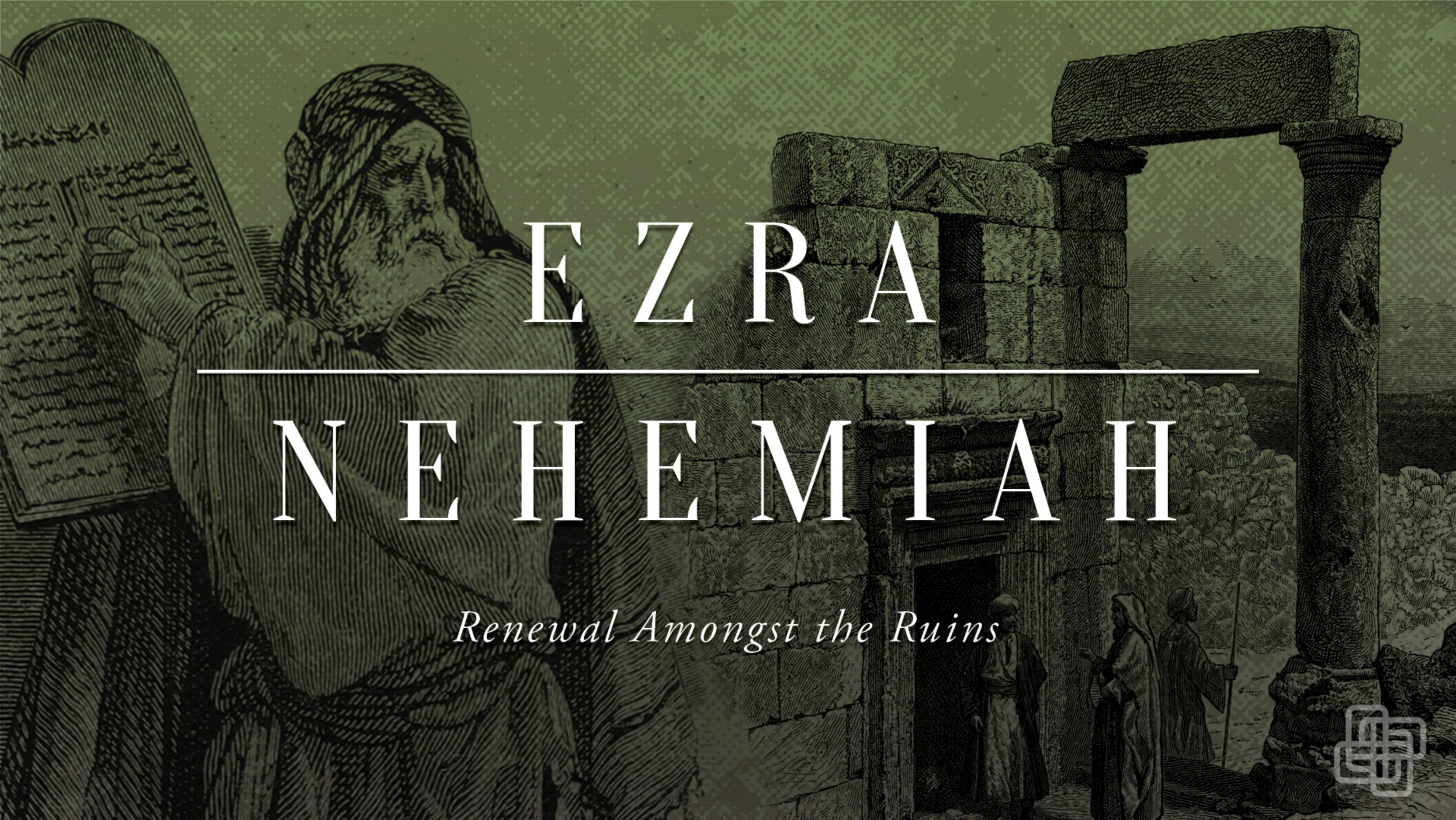
# EZRA 6:13-22

## 3. God Provides a Greater Celebration Than They Realize (vv. 19–22)

The chapter ends with the celebration of Passover. Passover remembers deliverance through the blood of a lamb. Yet Israel is still under Persian rule. *The restoration is real, but incomplete.*

*Ezra 6 shows us a God who finishes what He starts, restores joy before demanding obedience, and points us to a greater salvation in Christ.*



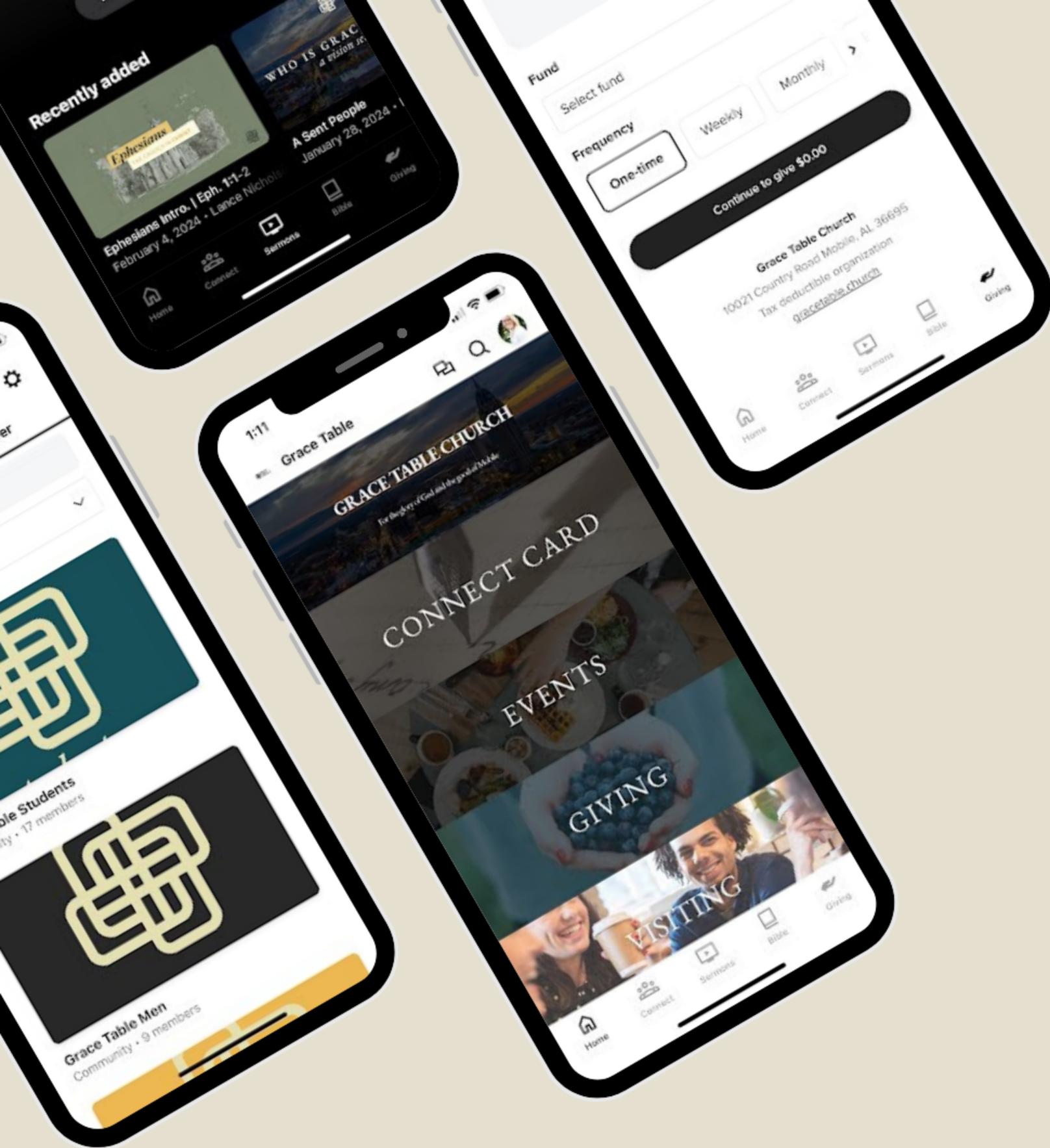


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# EZRA

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# GRACE TABLE

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**Leader:**

“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.

