

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

Renewal Amongst the Ruins



Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. 4 So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

-Psalm 63:3-4



Nehemiah 1

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah.

Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, 2 that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.”



Nehemiah 1

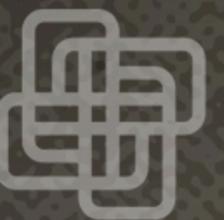
4 As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. 5 And I said, "O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, 6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. 7 We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses.

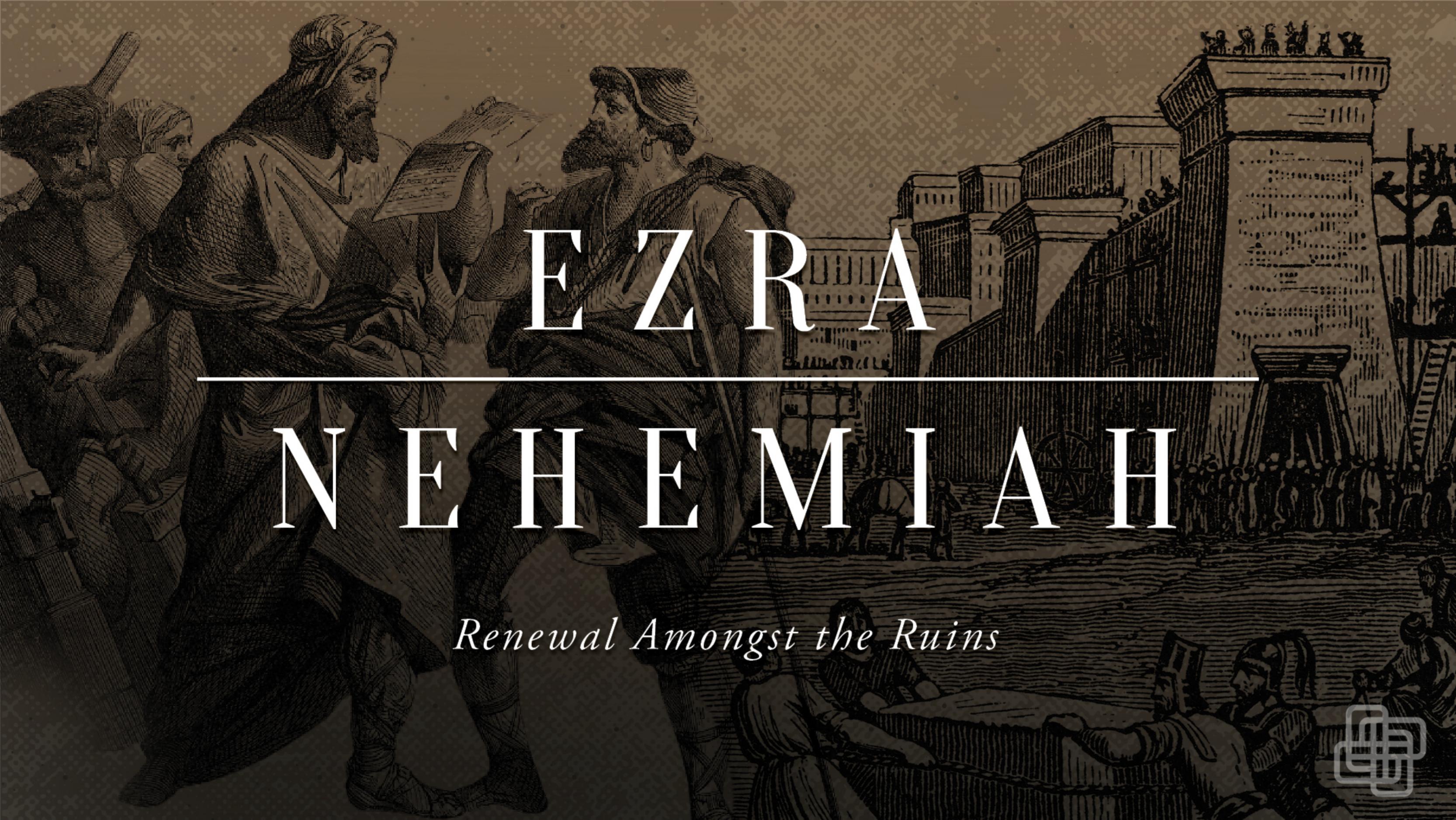


Nehemiah 1

8 Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, 9 but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.' 10 They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. 11 O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man."

Now I was cupbearer to the king.





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THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Two Books From One:

- One Book (Ezra/Nehemiah) in Tanakh (Hebrew Bible)
- Early rabbinic writings confirm books as a unity

Authorship:

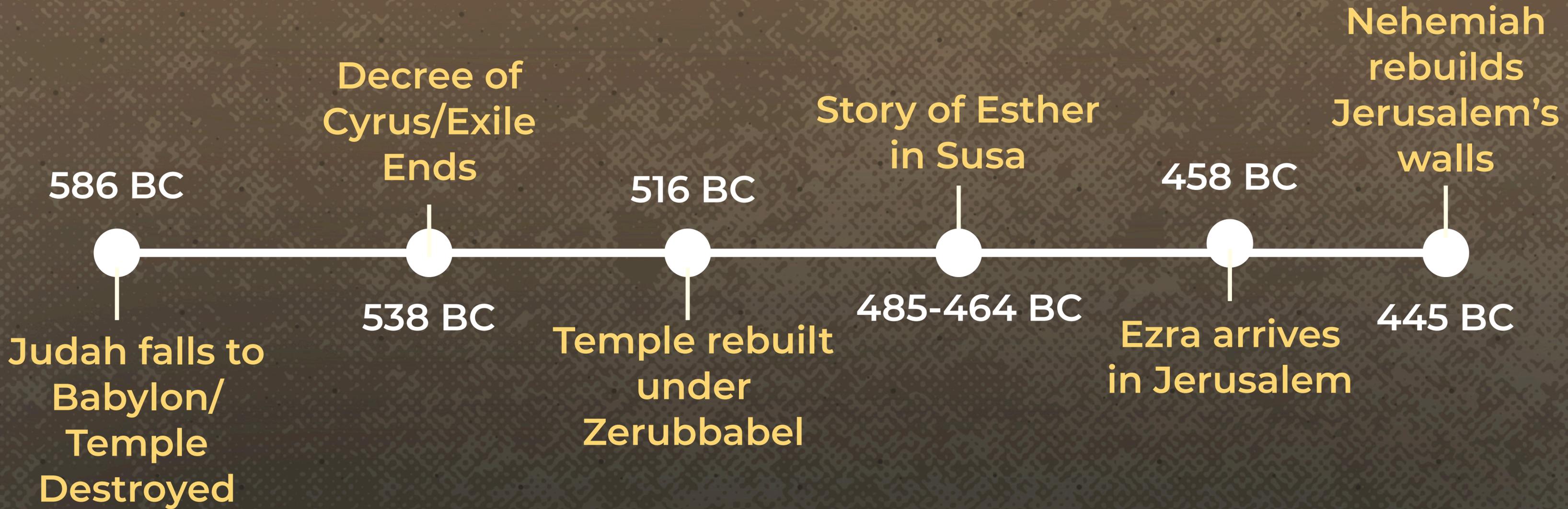
- Nehemiah — all written in first person (w/ exception to chs. 8-10)

Themes:

- God's faithfulness
- Personal responsibility & God's divine sovereignty to carry out His purposes
- God's mercy & grace despite sin



TIMELINE OF EZRA/NEHEMIAH



A HEART THAT CARES ABOUT GOD'S PEOPLE (vs.1-3)

Direct report from Nehemiah (name means: God Comforts)

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah.

1 of 3 capitals of
Persian Empire

(setting of Esther)

Late Nov.-Dec Reign of Artaxerxes (2:1)

Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the

most likely blood brother (given high office- 7:2)

citadel, 2 that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And

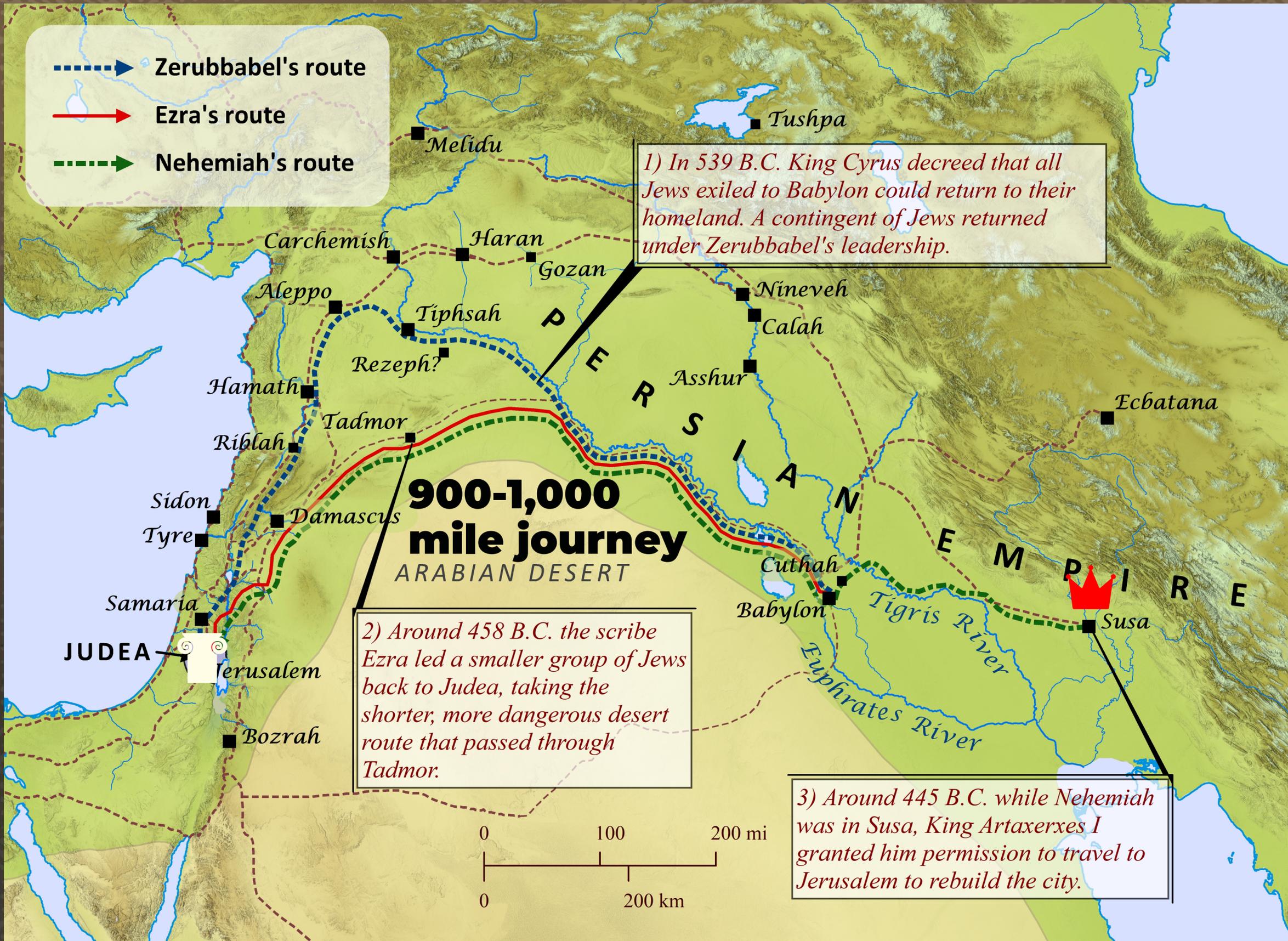
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concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province

who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is

broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.”





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I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and

That returned in Ezra

concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province

Vulnerable to attack by outsiders; Rebuilt temple at risk

who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is

Wall = Protection

broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire."

Happened by Babylonians

*Apathy is one of our
greatest dangers.*



A HEART THAT BREAKS OVER WHAT IS BROKEN (v.4)

Outward lament

4 As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I

Nehemiah's worship called for a response
continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.



A HEART THAT HAS AN AWE OF GOD (vs. 5-7)

Big view of God

5 And I said, “O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps

Recalls nature of God
covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that

Vertical awe of God led to horizontal grace for others
I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants,

Humility = corporately identifying w/ people’s sin 900 mi. from you
confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I

High view of God leads to proper view of self
and my father’s house have sinned. 7 We have acted very corruptly against you and

have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded

your servant Moses.

**Vertical awe of the Lord inspires grace for
towards our neighbor**



A HEART THAT BELIEVES GOD'S PROMISES (vs. 8-9)

Deut. 4:25-31; 9:29

8 Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are

Covenant Stipulations

unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, 9 but if you return to me and keep

my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of

Nehemiah prayed the Word b/c he loved the Word

heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have

chosen, to make my name dwell there.'

Nehemiah prays this for months (2:1)

Faith is not closing our eyes to the brokenness of the world. It is trusting that the God who is sovereign over all things and good in all His ways is greater than every problem and faithful in every promise.



A HEART WILLING TO LEVERAGE POSITION FOR GOD'S GLORY (vs. 11-12)

10 They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. 11 O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of

Nehemiah invited others in to pray (maybe in Susa)

your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and

Willing to be the answer to his own prayer **Understood earthly kings are subject to God**
give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man."

Very high office; prestigious role; tasted food/wine before king (poison)

Now I was cupbearer to the king.

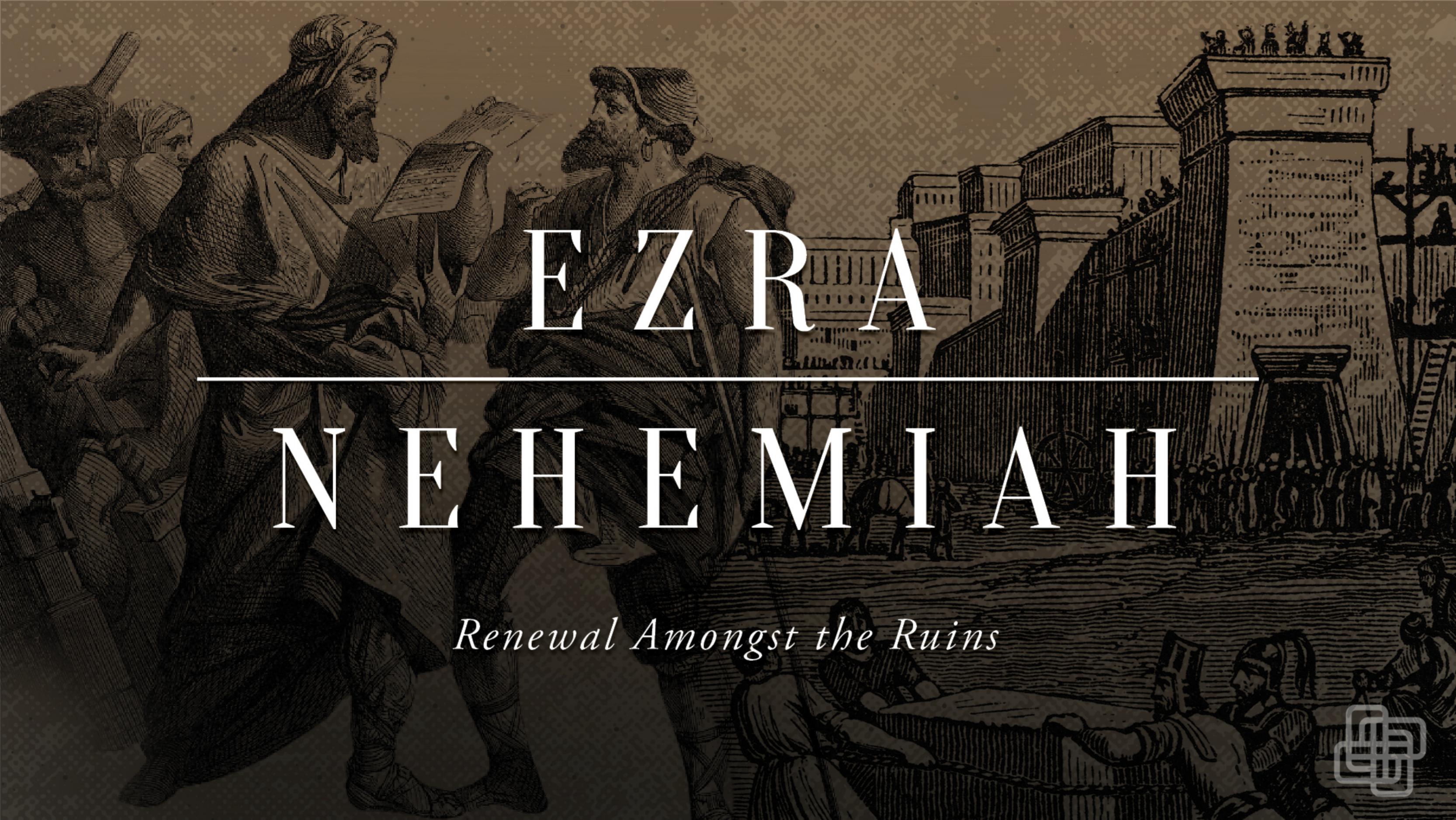
Cupbearer to King = Strong stature, Good looks, Expert in food & wine, Educated, Trusted above everyone, king's companion & listening ear, held in high honor, lived in King's palace

Do earthly pleasures satisfy you more than heavenly hungers?



November 9, 1989 | Berlin, Germany



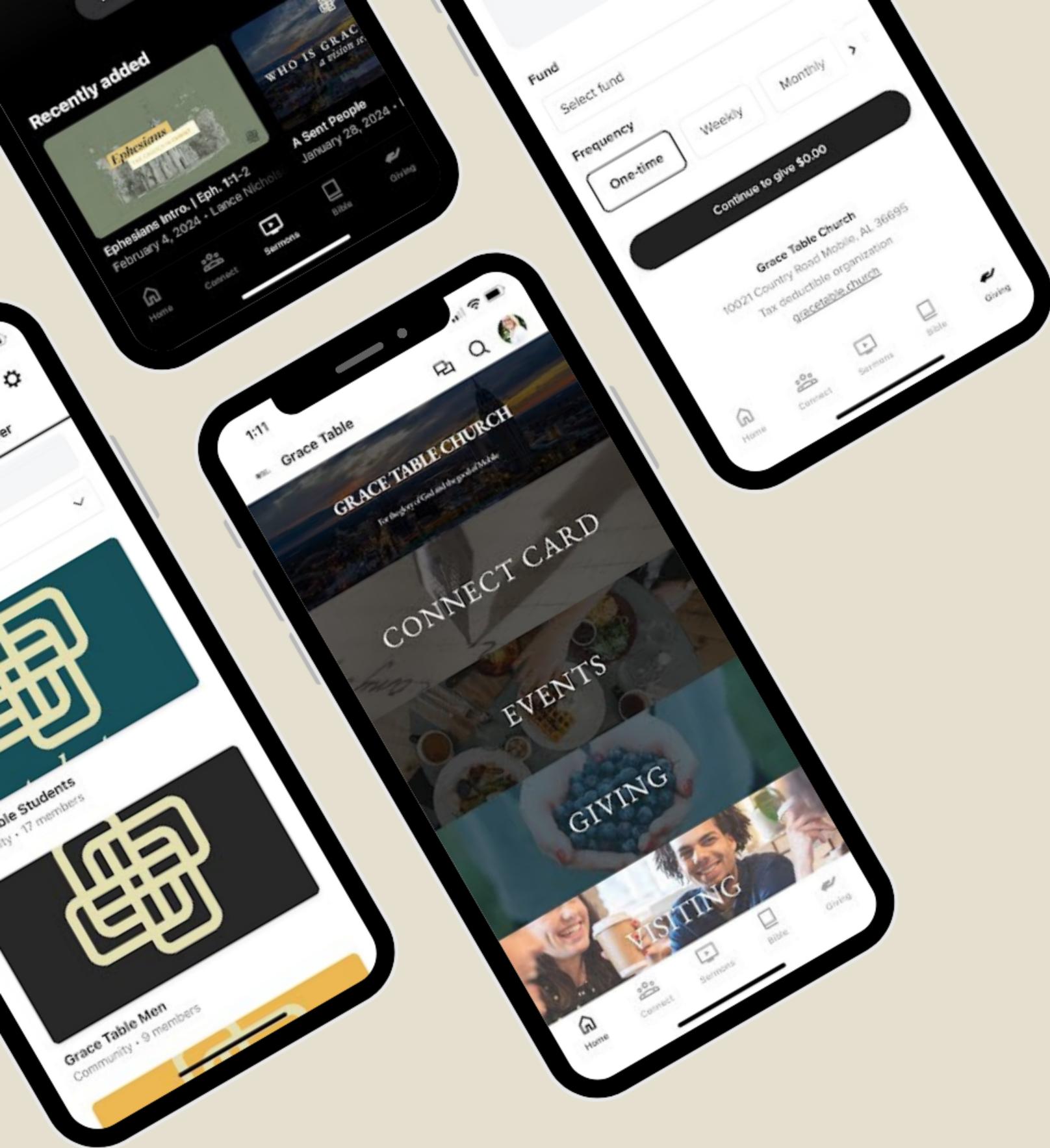


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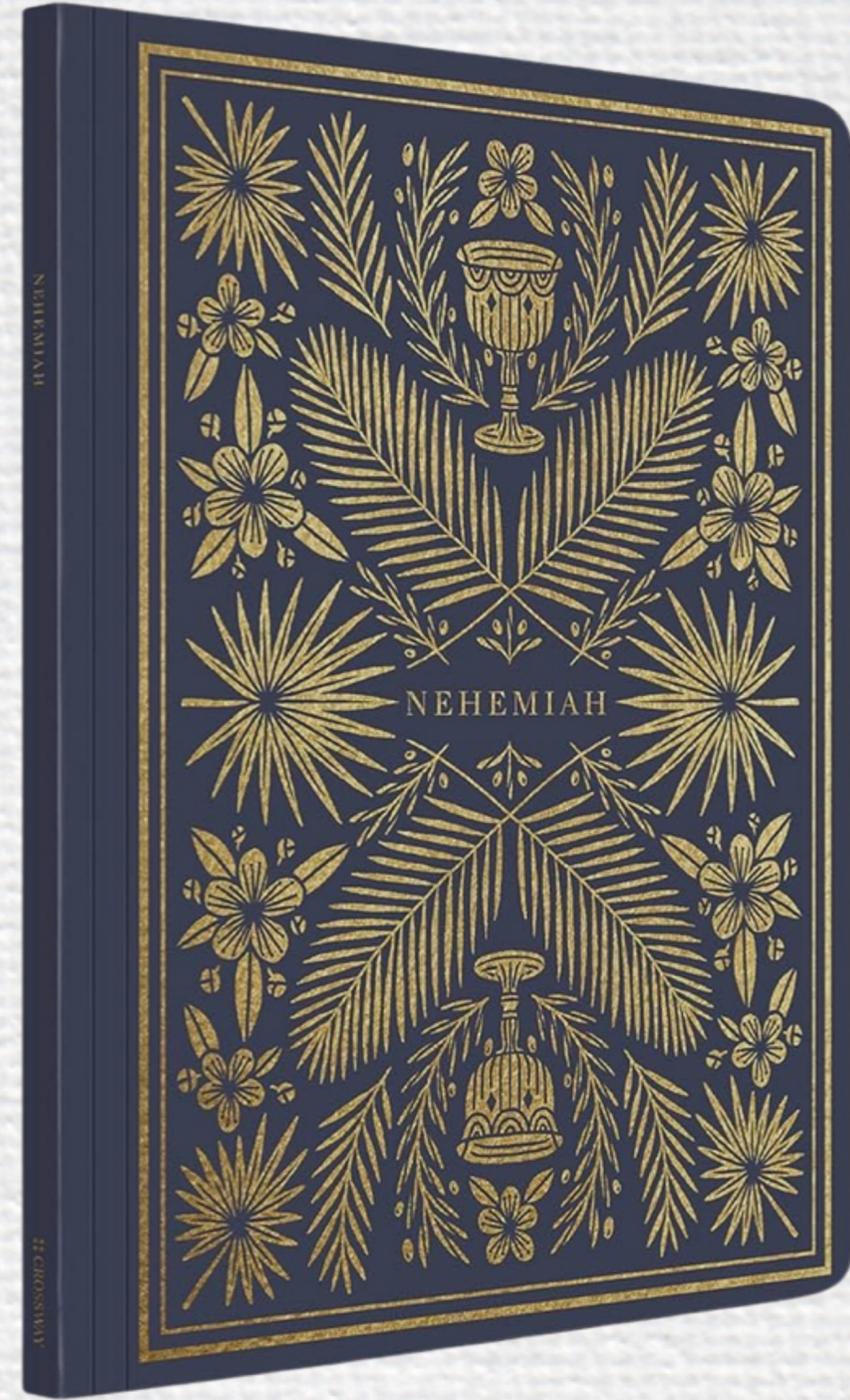
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“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

-2 Corinthians 13:14

People:

And also with you.

