

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

Renewal Amongst the Ruins



8 “I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

-Revelation 3:8



Nehemiah 2:1-10

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. 2 And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. 3 I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" 4 Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. 5 And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it."



Nehemiah 2:1-10

6 And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time.

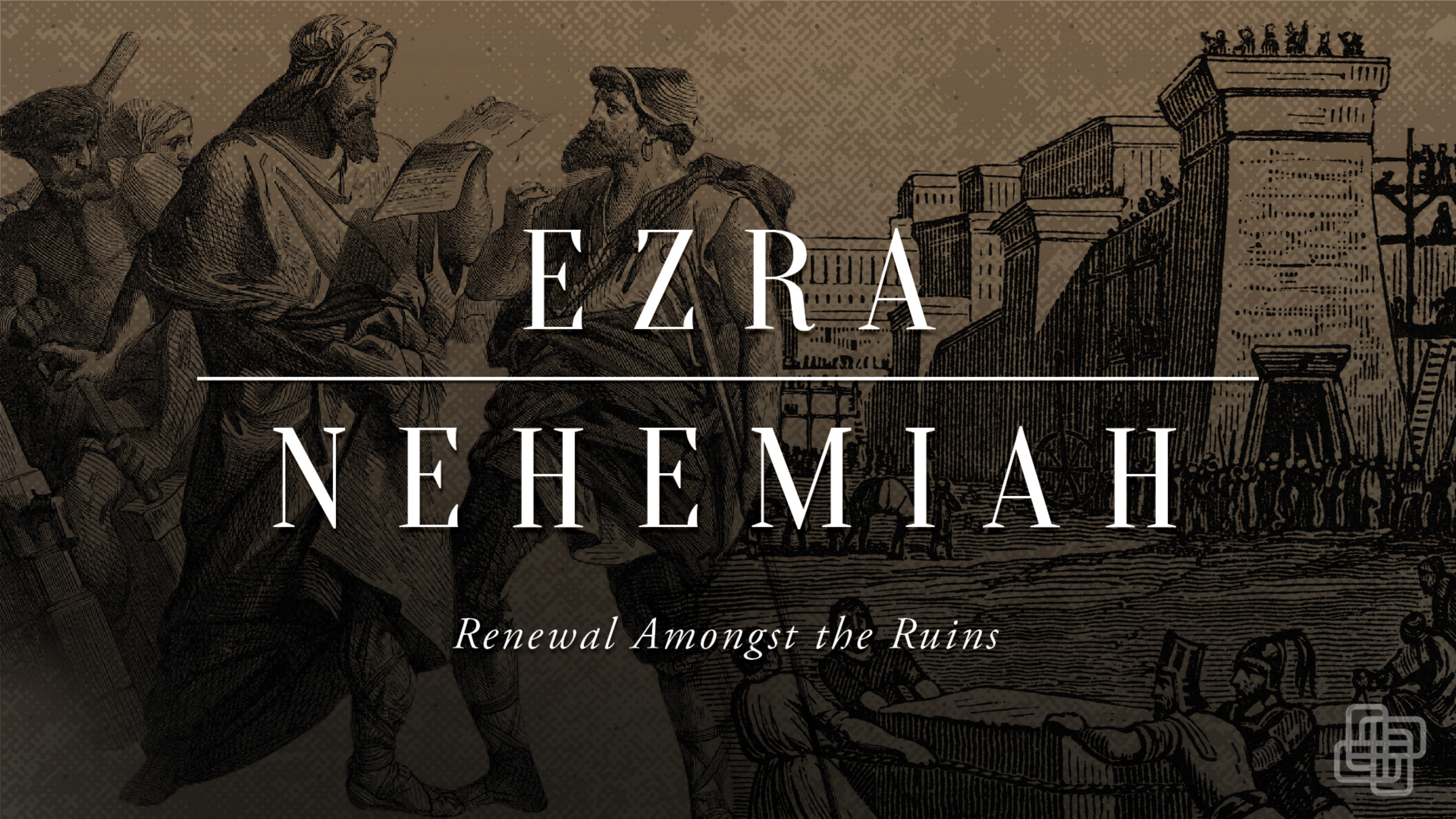
7 And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah,

8 and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

9 Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen.

10 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.





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GOD'S PROVIDENCE ORCHESTRATES THE MOMENT (vs. 1-2)

Mar-Apr. (4 months passed since ch. 1)

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was

Remaining faithful in everyday mundane rhythms

before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in

Not okay to be sad in the king's presence; being in his self-absorbed presence should make you "happy"

his presence. 2 And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not

Could be killed for his sadness

sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid.

"The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps." -Pro. 16:9

Divine providence often unfolds through ordinary faithfulness.



PRAYERFUL DEPENDENCE SUSTAINS FAITHFUL ACTION (vs. 3-4)

strategic response to a narcissist

3 I said to the king, “Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when

Persian kings had deep respect for ancestors/graves
the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been

destroyed by fire?” 4 Then the king said to me, “What are you requesting?” So I

Quick/rapid fire prayer (1 Thess. 5:17); Faith is never self-reliant
prayed to the God of heaven.

When prayer saturates our private life, it will naturally shape our public life.



FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP COMBINES VISION & WISDOM (vs. 6-8)

Not sure why mentioned; Possibly king's birthday

6 And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), “How long will you be

gone, and when will you return?” Nehemiah had done due diligence w/ a plan So it pleased the king to send me when I had given

Request for time to complete work

him a time. 7 And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to

the governors of the province Beyond the River, Request for protection that they may let me pass through

until I come to Judah, 8 and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he

Request for materials to complete work may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and

for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy.” And the king granted

Source of Nehemiah's success; Trust in God doesn't remove necessity of planning.

me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

God's sovereignty does not cancel human responsibility, it establishes it.



GOD'S REDEMPTIVE WORK INEVITABLY ENVOKES OPPOSITION

(vs. 9-10)

9 Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the **king goes above/beyond requests & gives military escort** king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen.

Held to syncretic beliefs; antagonist throughout book

10 But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this,

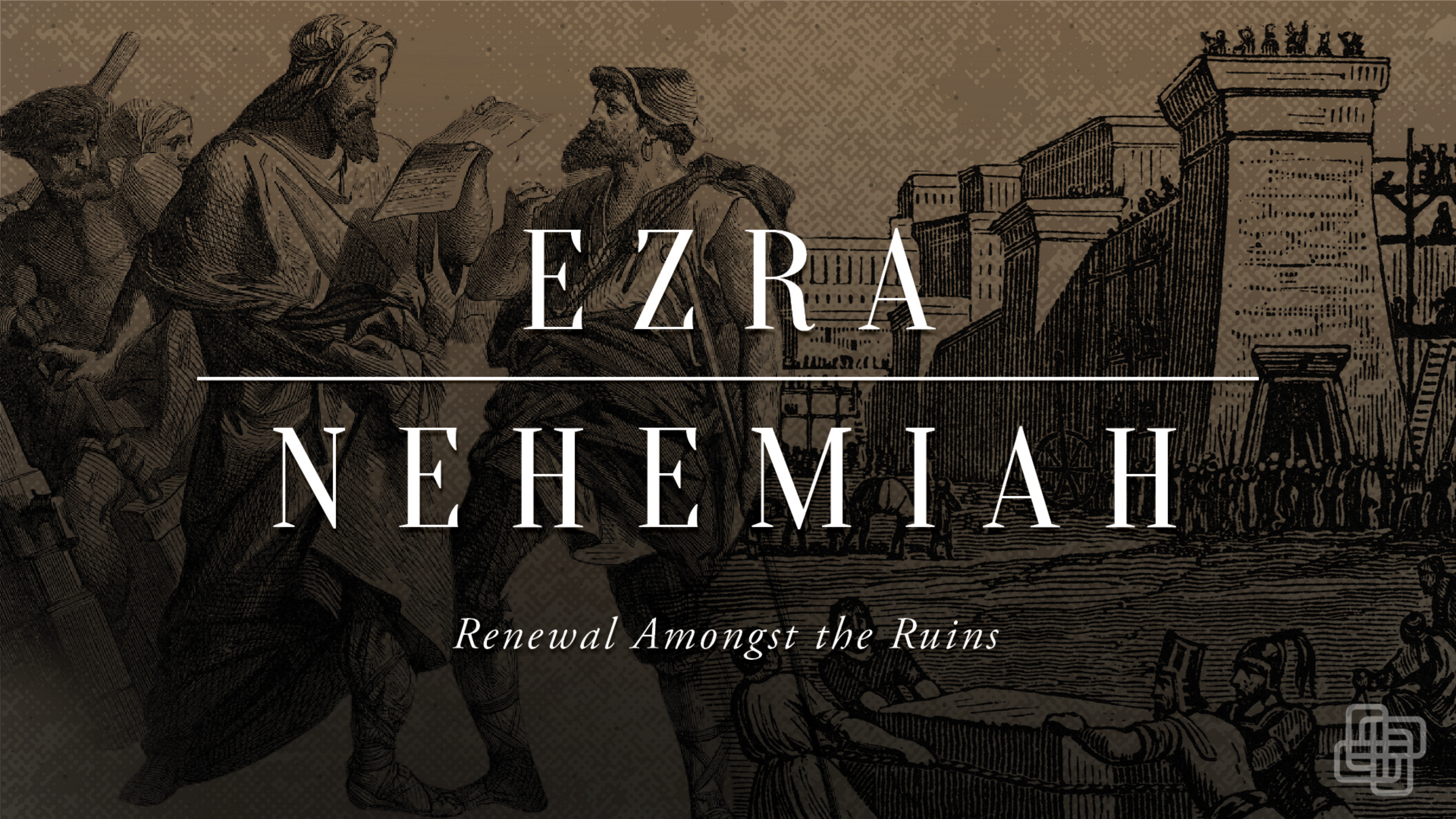
Wanted Israel to remain viewed as weak

it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people

of Israel.

Opposition arises when the work goes into motion.





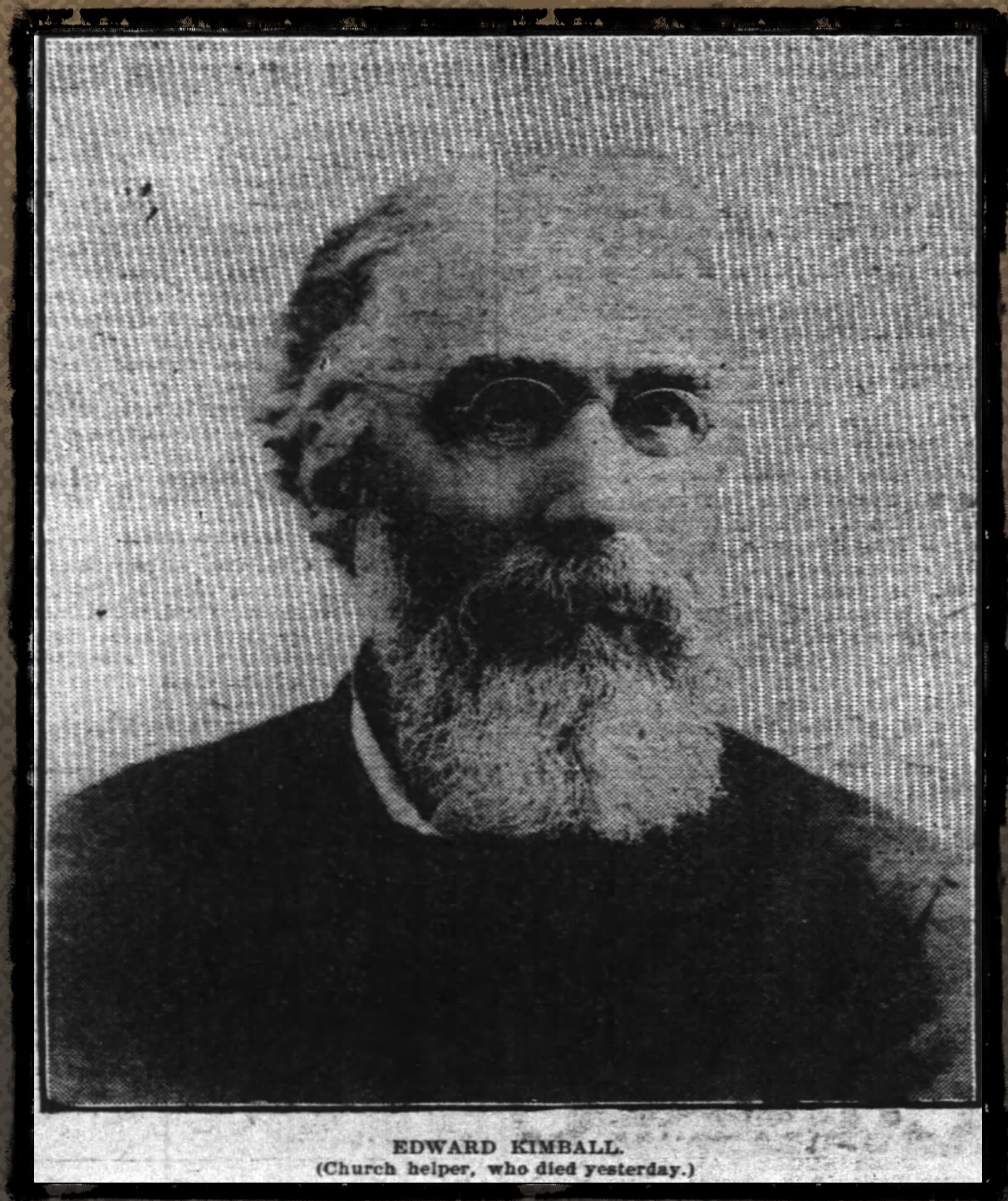
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The Story of Edward Kimball

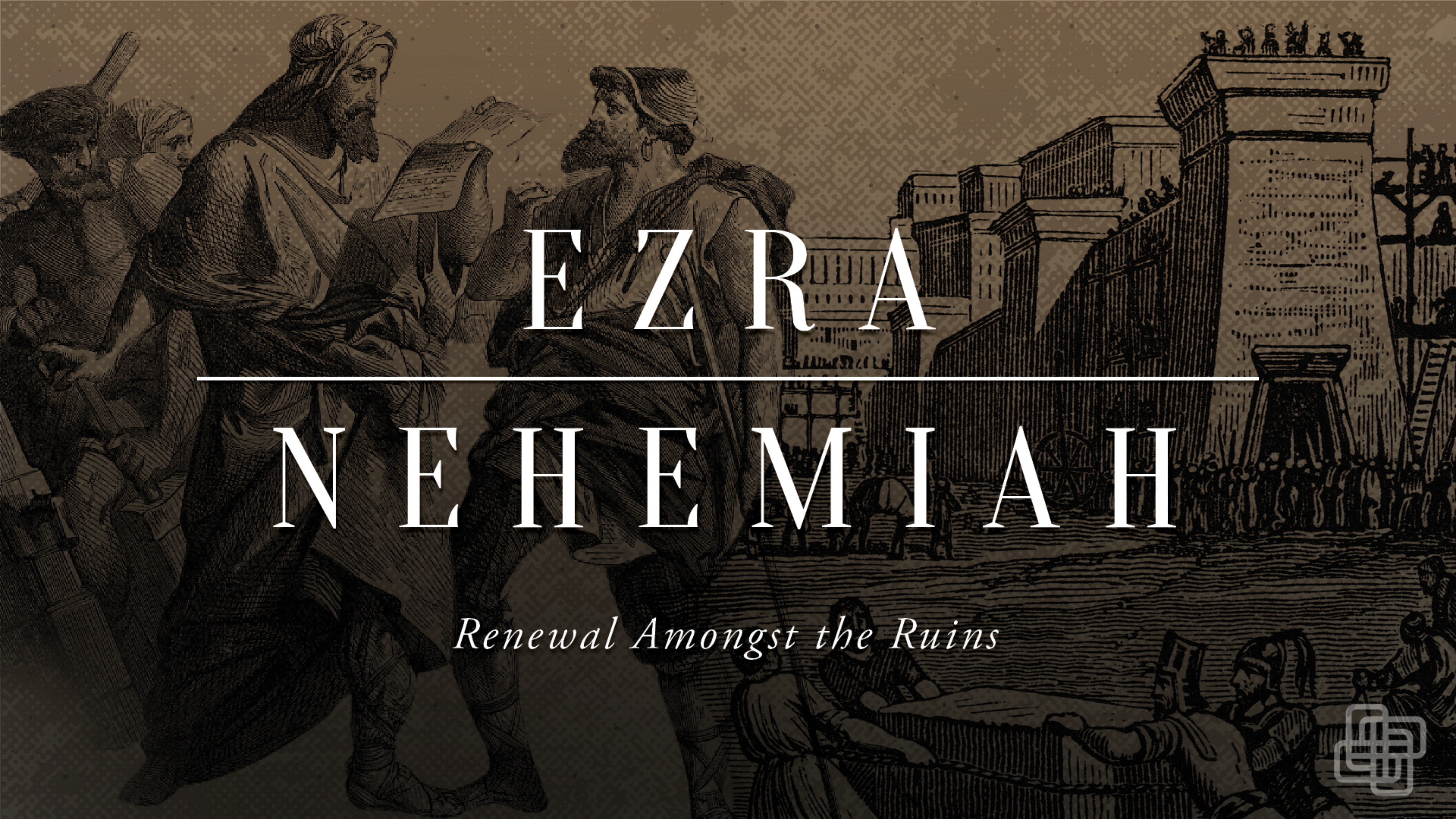


*Most Influential Evangelist
of the 19th Century*

D.L. Moody

Pastor & Evangelist



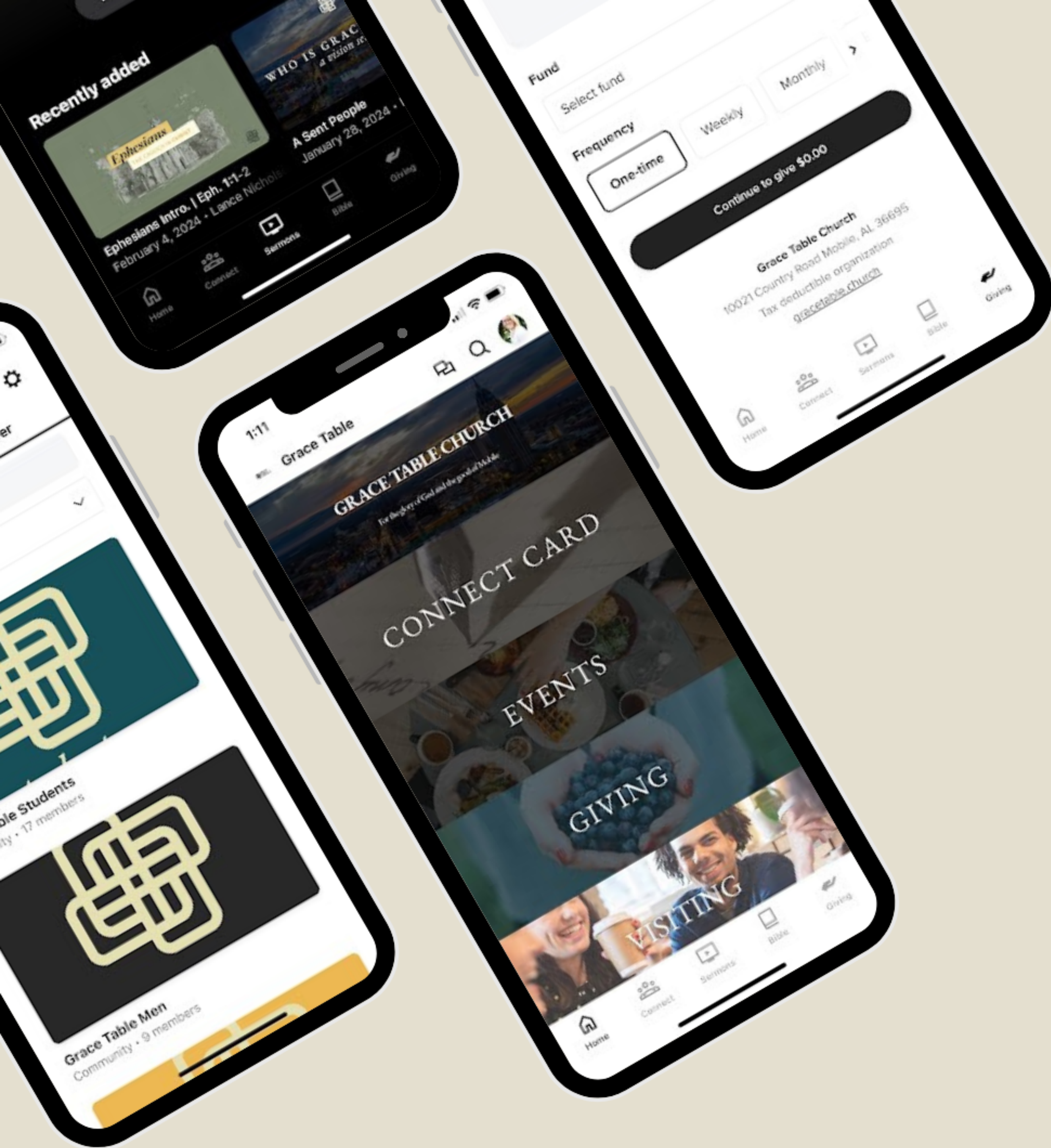


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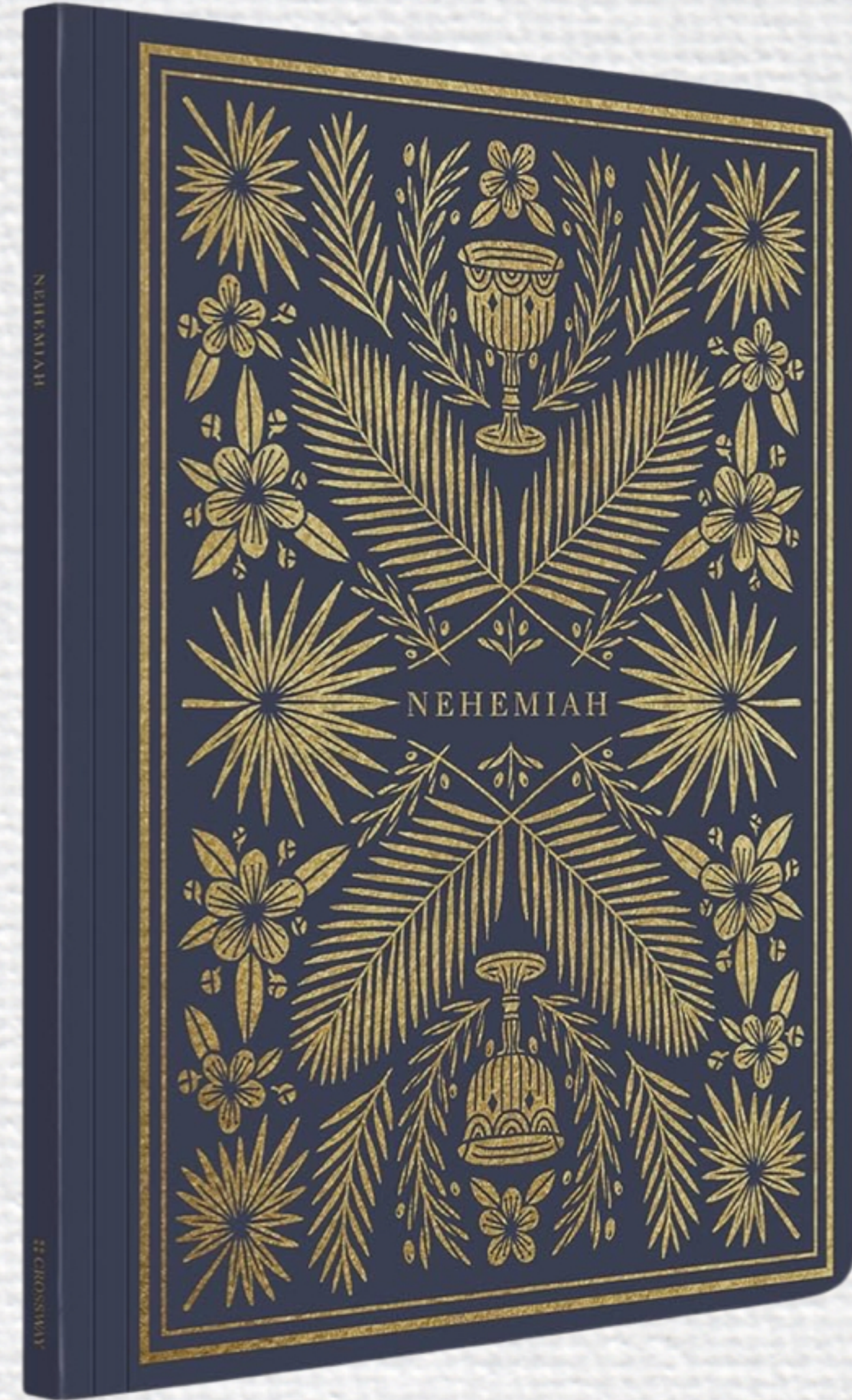
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“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

-2 Corinthians 13:14

People:

And also with you.

