

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

Renewal Amongst the Ruins



CALL TO WORSHIP

Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.

Psalm 34:3-4



Nehemiah 10

1-27 "On the seals are the names of Nehemiah the governor,... 84 names..."

28 "The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters, all who have knowledge and understanding, 29 join with their brothers, their nobles, and enter into a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law that was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord our Lord and his rules and his statutes. 30 We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons. 31 And if the peoples of the land bring in goods or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on a holy day. And we will forgo the crops of the seventh year and the exaction of every debt."



Nehemiah 10

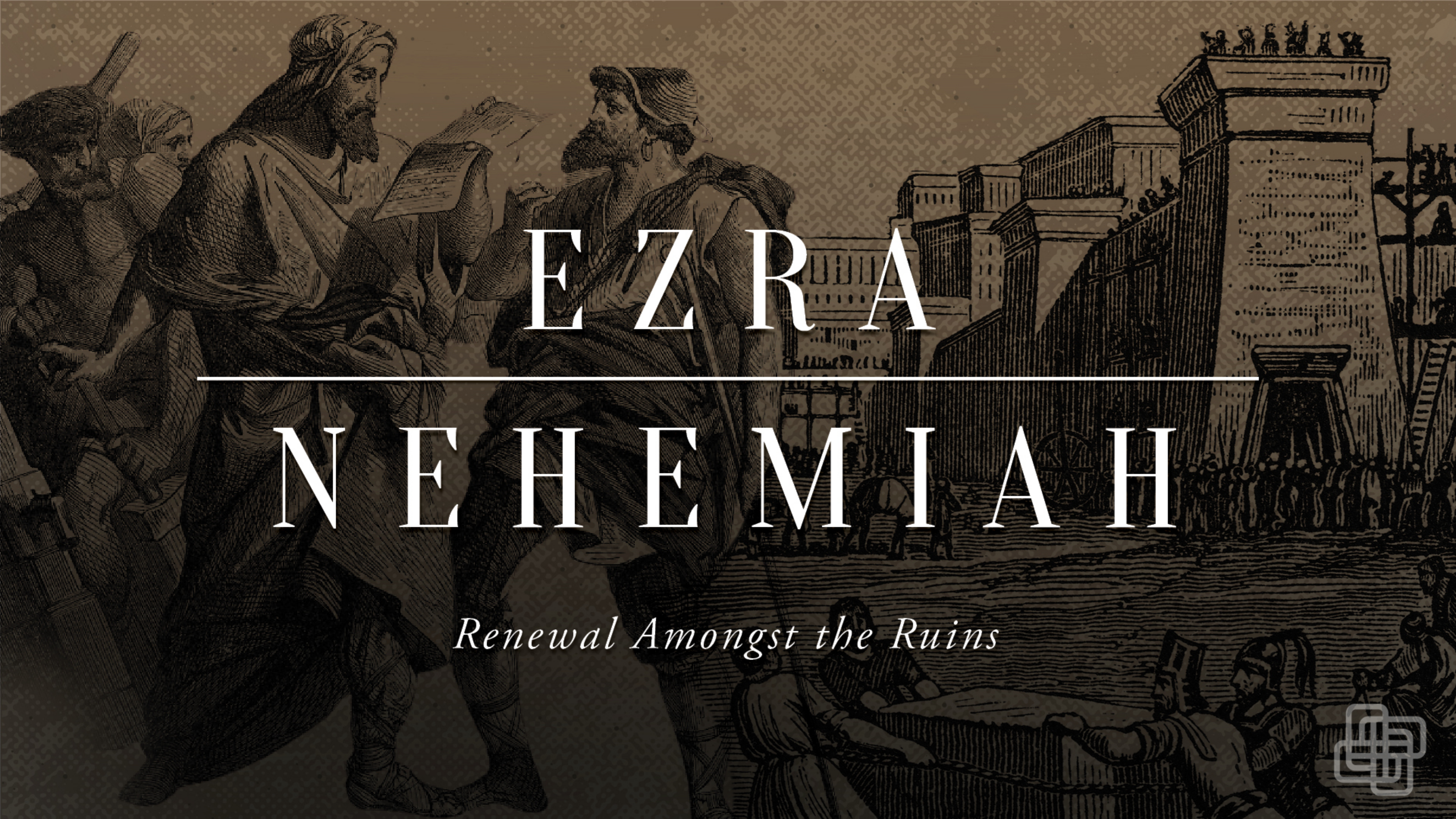
32 “We also take on ourselves the obligation to give yearly a third part of a shekel[c] for the service of the house of our God: 33 for the showbread, the regular grain offering, the regular burnt offering, the Sabbaths, the new moons, the appointed feasts, the holy things, and the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God. 34 We, the priests, the Levites, and the people, have likewise cast lots for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, according to our fathers’ houses, at times appointed, year by year, to burn on the altar of the Lord our God, as it is written in the Law. 35 We obligate ourselves to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of every tree, year by year, to the house of the Lord;



Nehemiah 10

36 also to bring to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God, the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, as it is written in the Law, and the firstborn of our herds and of our flocks; 37 and to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our ground, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our towns where we labor. 38 And the priest, the son of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive the tithes. And the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes to the house of our God, to the chambers of the storehouse. 39 For the people of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of grain, wine, and oil to the chambers, where the vessels of the sanctuary are, as well as the priests who minister, and the gatekeepers and the singers. We will not neglect the house of our God.”





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1: TRUE REVIVAL LEADS TO PUBLIC SURRENDER 1–27

1 On the seals are the names of ...

Leaders, priests, Levites, and the people sign the covenant

This is specific allegiance

Signing a covenant is saying: “I am no longer my own; I belong to the Lord.”

A signed covenant turns intention into declaration and belief into obedience.



2: TRUE REVIVAL PRODUCES DISTINCT LIVING 28–31

... and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God...

Signing a covenant places someone inside God's redemptive story.

“Holiness is not optional for the Christian; it is the very evidence that we belong to God.”

Revival creates holy distinction. God didn't save you to blend in; He saved you to stand out.



3: TRUE REVIVAL REORDERS YOUR PRIORITIES 32–39

...We will not neglect the house of our God.

Financial giving

Firstfruits is not about leftovers it's about what comes first.

Firstfruits giving is a declaration: “God, You are my source, not this.”

Proverbs 3:9–10 – “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits...”

Exodus 23:19 – Bring the best of the firstfruits

Matthew 6:21 – “Where your treasure is...”

1 Corinthians 4:2 – Required of stewards to be found faithful

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 – God loves a cheerful giver

James 1:17–18 – We are a kind of firstfruits of His creation



3: TRUE REVIVAL REORDERS YOUR PRIORITIES 32–39

... and for all the work of the house of our God.

Supporting worship

The church is not a place for consumers but a community of participating servants shaped by the gospel.



3: TRUE REVIVAL REORDERS YOUR PRIORITIES 32–39

... and for all the work of the house of our God.

Sustaining God's work

The mission of God moves forward on the hands & feet of His people.

Ministry isn't maintained by a few; it's multiplied through many.



THE BETTER COVENANT

The Problem:

Israel will break this covenant

The Hope:

Jesus fulfills what we fail to keep; He signs with His blood and sealed with His Spirit.



THE BETTER COVENANT Hebrews 8:6-12

6 But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.

7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

8 For he finds fault with them when he says:

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,

when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel

and with the house of Judah,

9 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. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord.



THE BETTER COVENANT Hebrews 8:6-12

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."

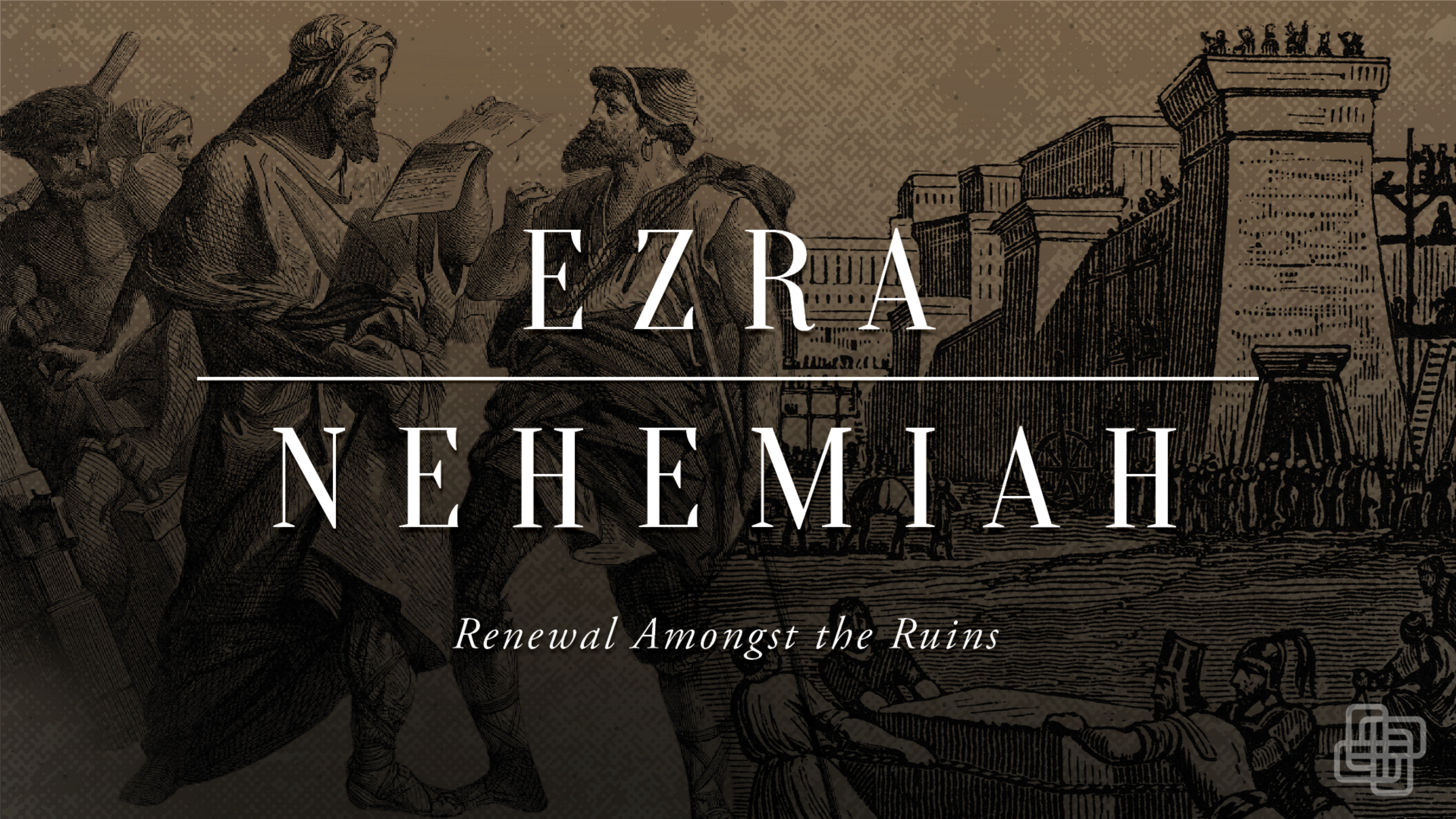


THE BETTER COVENANT

A few ?s to shape our prayer and response this morning

1. Why is it easier to feel emotional than commit?
2. Where do you blend in instead of stand out?
3. What does your time and money say about your values?
4. What would it look like to fully surrender this week?



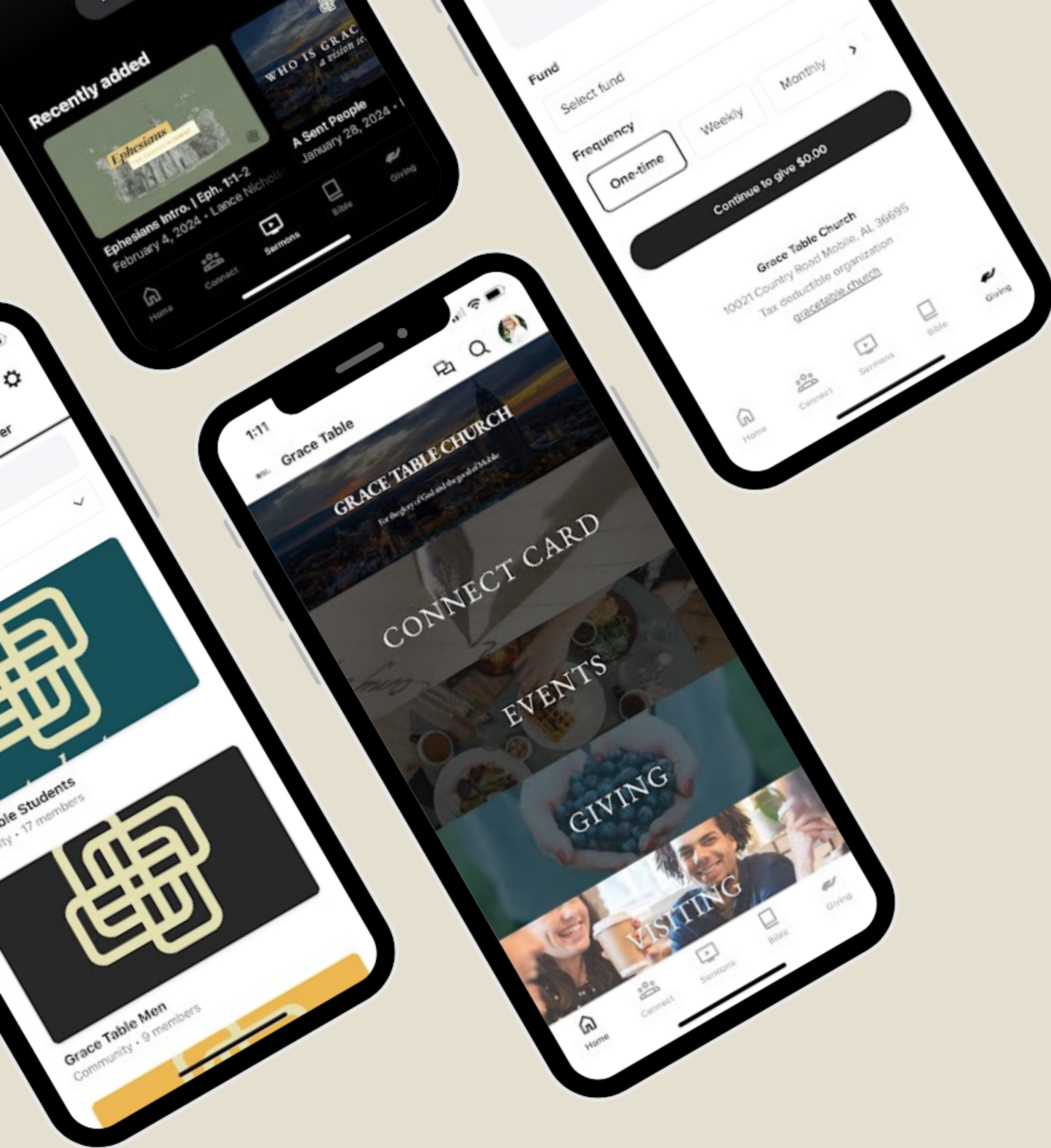


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PRAYER

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BENEDICTION

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.

