

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

Renewal Amongst the Ruins



28 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength! 29 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

-1 Chronicles 16:28-29



Ezra 3

When the seventh month came, and the children of Israel were in the towns, the people gathered as one man to Jerusalem. 2 Then arose Jeshua the son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel with his kinsmen, and they built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the Law of Moses the man of God. 3 They set the altar in its place, for fear was on them because of the peoples of the lands, and they offered burnt offerings on it to the Lord, burnt offerings morning and evening. 4 And they kept the Feast of Booths, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number according to the rule, as each day required, 5 and after that the regular burnt offerings, the offerings at the new moon and at all the appointed feasts of the Lord, and the offerings of everyone who made a freewill offering to the Lord.



Ezra 3

6 From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the Lord. But the foundation of the temple of the Lord was not yet laid. 7 So they gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the grant that they had from Cyrus king of Persia. 8 Now in the second year after their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak made a beginning, together with the rest of their kinsmen, the priests and the Levites and all who had come to Jerusalem from the captivity. They appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to supervise the work of the house of the Lord. 9 And Jeshua with his sons and his brothers, and Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together supervised the workmen in the house of God, along with the sons of Henadad and the Levites, their sons and brothers.



Ezra 3

10 And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord, according to the directions of David king of Israel. 11 And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord,

*“For he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.”*

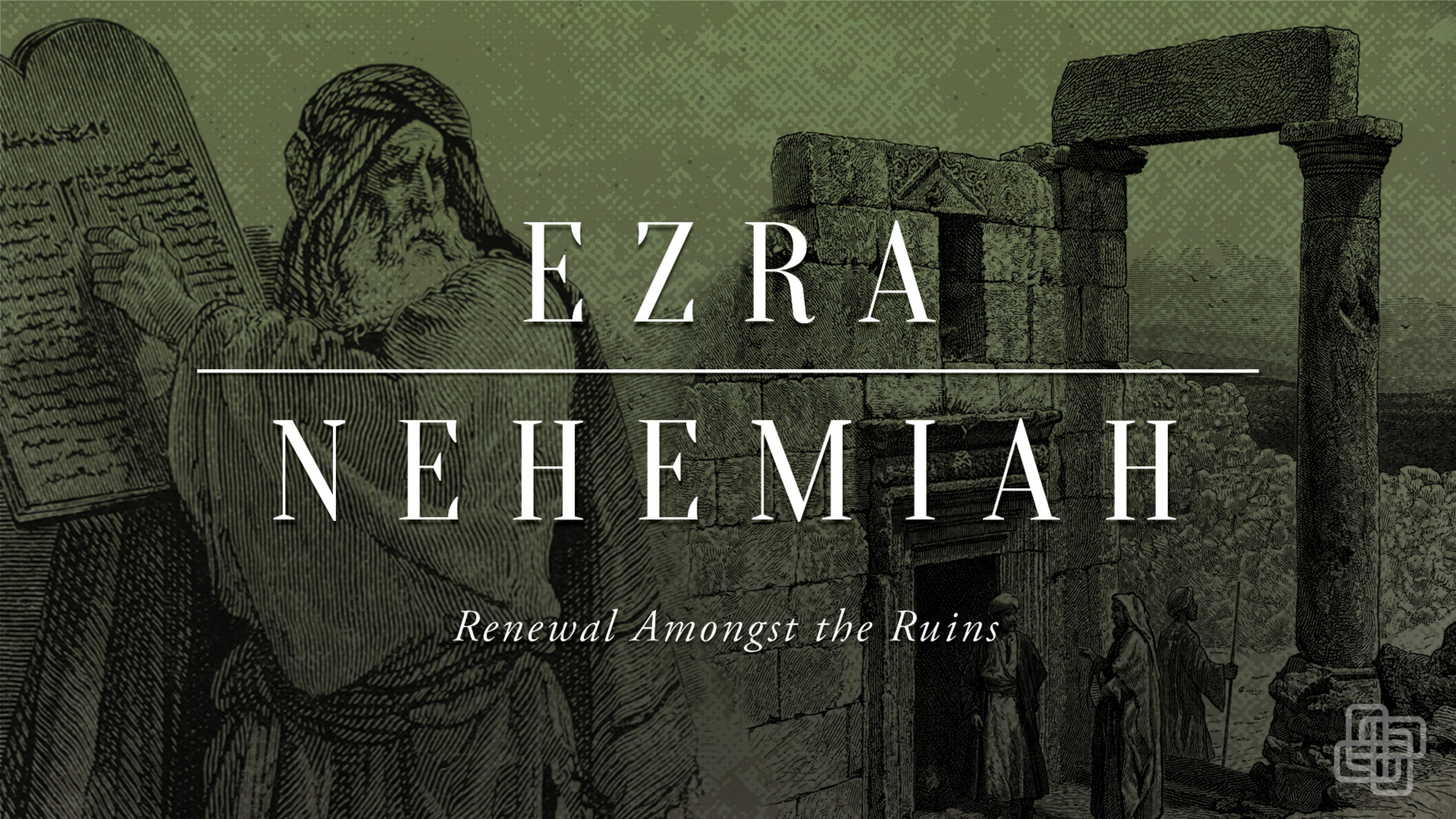
And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.



Ezra 3

12 But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy, 13 so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted with a great shout, and the sound was heard far away.





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EZRA 3 OBSERVATIONS

1. Worship Precedes the Work

Sep/Oct

When the seventh month came, and the children of Israel were in the towns, the

United around dependence on God

people gathered as **one man** to Jerusalem. 2 Then arose Jeshua the son of Jozadak,

with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel with his kinsmen, and

Echoes Abram (Gen 12)

they built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written

in the Law of Moses the man of God. 3 They set the altar in its place, for fear was on

Samaritans (Mixed Jew/Assyrian)- syncretic belief (mixed worship YHWH & pagan gods)

them because of the peoples of the lands, and they offered burnt offerings on it to

Lev. 1-7

the Lord, burnt offerings morning and evening. 4 And they kept the Feast of

Booths, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number according

to the rule, as each day required,



“42 It shall be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before the Lord, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there. 43 There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory. 44 I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar. Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate to serve me as priests. 45 I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. 46 And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the Lord their God.”

-Exodus 29:42-46

“Their first step is not rebuilding the city, but rebuilding community in worship of the Lord.”



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with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel with his kinsmen, and

Echoes Abram (Gen 12); Access to God

Substitutionary Sacrifice (Rmns. 6:23; Heb 9:22)

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Samaritans (Mixed Jew/Assyrian)- syncretic belief (mixed worship YHWH & pagan gods)

them because of the peoples of the lands, and they offered burnt offerings on it to

Lev. 1-7

Recalling God's provisional grace

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Booths, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number according

to the rule, as each day required,



EZRA 3 OBSERVATIONS

2. The Work Begins with Obedience and Offering (vs. 7-11)

Costly

7 So they gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to
Working w/ neighboring people
the Sidonians and the Tyrians to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to

Joppa, according to the grant that they had from Cyrus king of Persia. 8 Now in the

second year after their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem, in the **Apr./May**
second
Leading the temple rebuild
month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak made a

beginning, together with the rest of their kinsmen, the priests and the Levites and

all who had come to Jerusalem from the captivity. They appointed the Levites, from

Leading people in song
twenty years old and upward, to supervise the work of the house of the Lord.

God doesn't rebuild with wishful thinking--He rebuilds with obedience.



EZRA 3 OBSERVATIONS

2. The Work Begins with Obedience and Offering (vs. 7-11)

10 And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, **Work as worship** with cymbals, to praise the Lord, according to the directions of David king of Israel.

11 And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord,

1 Chron 16

“For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.”

And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because **Proclamation God hadn't abandoned them** the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

Worship without obedience is hypocrisy; it's saying the right things while living the wrong way. Obedience without worship is Pharisaical; doing the tasks without the relationship. Genuine renewal is both worship & obedience.



EZRA 3 OBSERVATIONS

3. The Work Provokes Sorrow and Celebration, but God Is Still Building (vs. 12–13)

12 But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who

Sad from what once was (Solomon's temple)

had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of

Excited from what God was currently doing (Second temple)

this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy, 13 so that the people

A stark warning: Remember God in the moments & not the moments themselves
could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's

weeping, for the people shouted with a great shout, and the sound was heard far

away.

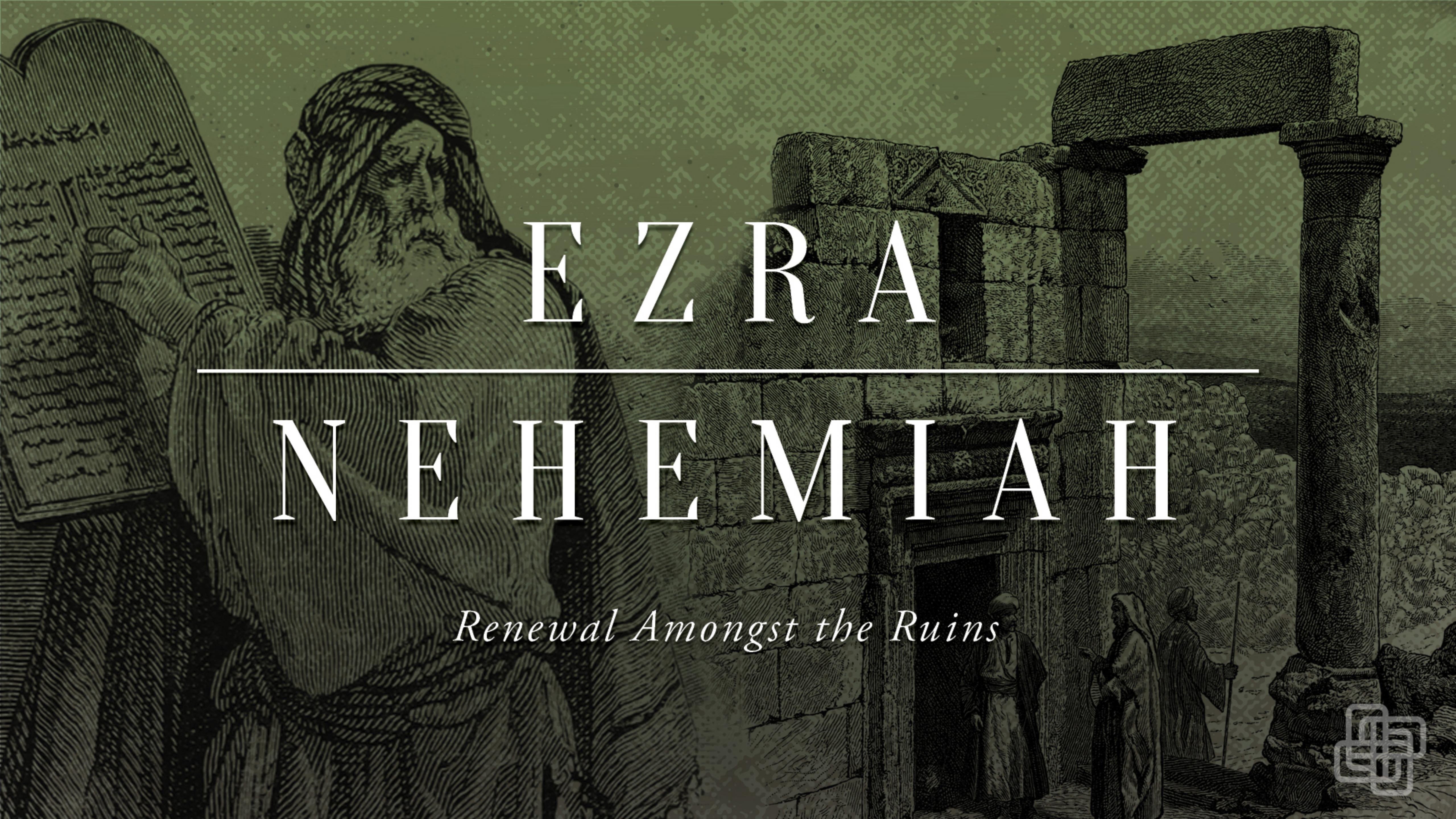


4 “Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the Lord. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jebozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the Lord. Work, for I am with you, declares the Lord of hosts, 5 according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not...9 The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts.”

-Haggai 2:4-5; 9

King Jesus is the true & better Temple who would rebuild what was broken by ushering in peace through his death on the cross, becoming sin as our substitute, and rising from the grave defeating sin/death.



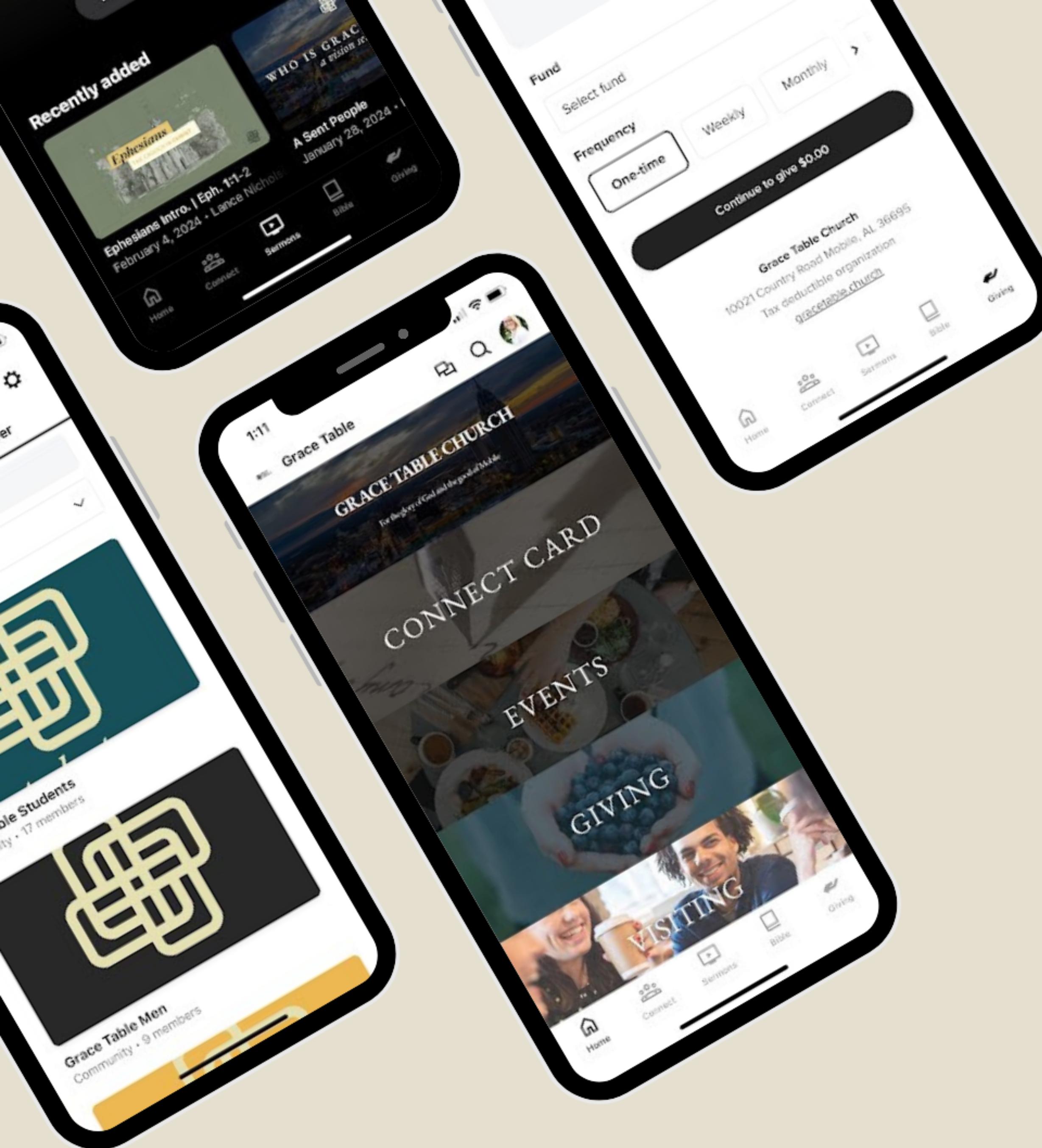


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JAN 25
POST-CHURCH

COVENANT *partnership*

LUNCHEON



GRACE TABLE

women's retreat

February 26-March 1
Gulf Shores, AL

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.

