

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

Renewal Amongst the Ruins



CALL TO WORSHIP

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

-Lamentations 3:22-23



Nehemiah 9

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. 2 And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. 3 And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day; for another quarter of it they made confession and worshiped the Lord their God. 4 On the stairs of the Levites stood Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani; and they cried with a loud voice to the Lord their God. 5 Then the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, "Stand up and bless the Lord your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.



Nehemiah 9

16 “But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments. 17 They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.



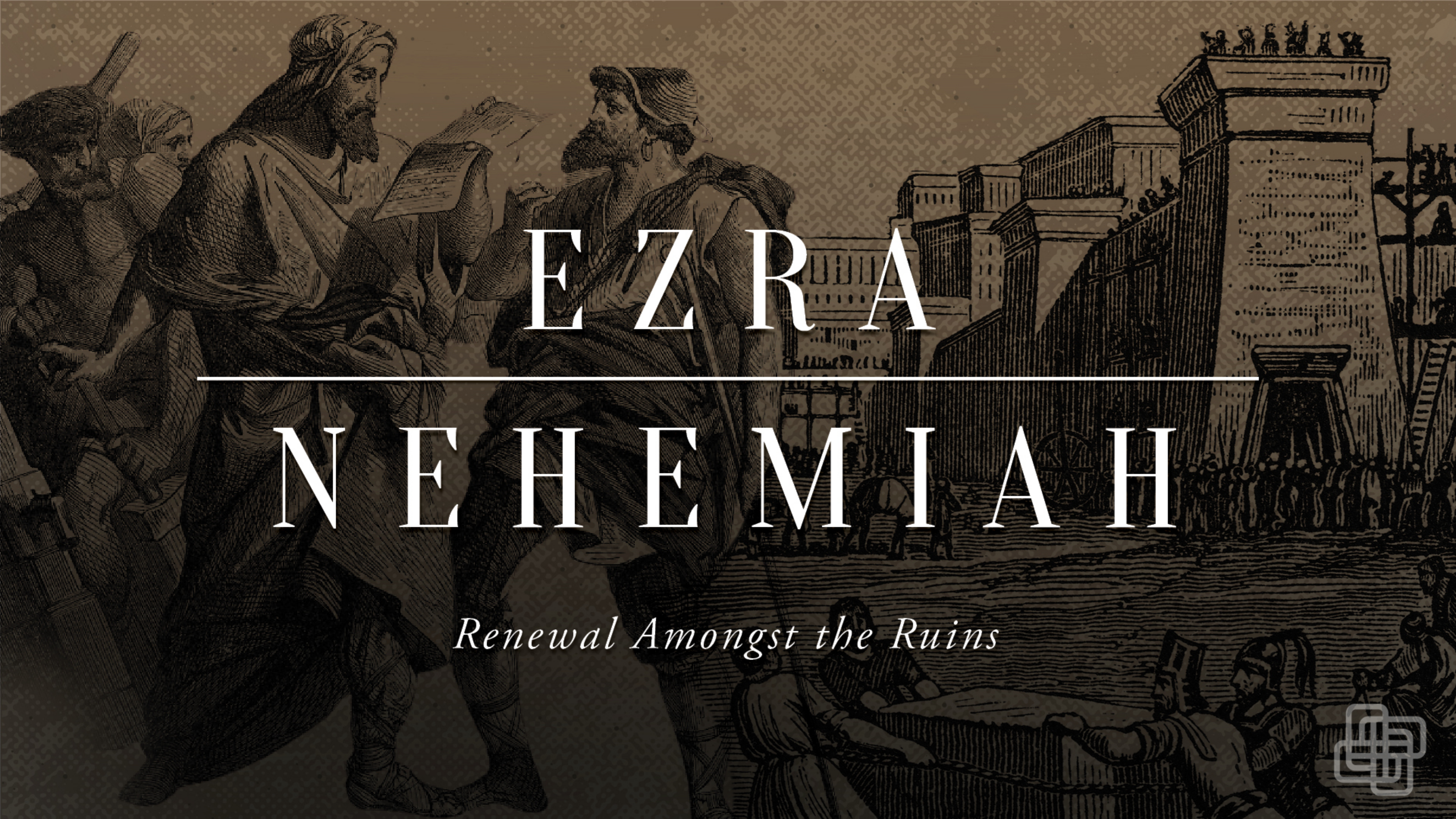
Nehemiah 9

26 “Nevertheless, they were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast your law behind their back and killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you, and they committed great blasphemies.

36 Behold, we are slaves this day; in the land that you gave to our fathers to enjoy its fruit and its good gifts, behold, we are slaves. 37 And its rich yield goes to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins. They rule over our bodies and over our livestock as they please, and we are in great distress.

38 “Because of all this we make a firm covenant in writing; on the sealed document are the names of our princes, our Levites, and our priests.





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A Response vs. 1-4

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled

Posture of Repentance

Owned their sin personally

with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. 2 And the Israelites

Ex. 6:12; Neh. 10:28 Non-Jews who had started following YHWH

separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the

iniquities of their fathers. 3 And they stood up in their place and read from the

The Word shaped their response

Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day; for another quarter

of it they made confession and worshiped the Lord their God. 4 On the stairs of the

Levites stood Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and

Chenani; and they cried with a loud voice to the Lord their God.

Renewal begins when our excuses for sin ends.



A Recollection of Redemption vs. 5-37

The Flow of Recollection:

Creation v.6

Covenant vs.7-8

Exodus & Wanderings vs. 9-21

Conquest, Judges, Prophets, & Exile vs. 22-37



A Recollection of Redemption vs. 5-37

Creation v.6

Summary of Genesis 1 & 2

Echo of Shema (Deut. 6:4) **created ex nihilo = out of nothing**

6 “You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with

all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and You

Creator + Sustainer

preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships You.

Awesomeness of the magnitude of God inspires awe/worship



A Recollection of Redemption vs. 5-37

Covenant vs.7-8

Summary of Genesis 12-17

God's initiative not Abram
(Gen. 12)

Pagan Child-sacrificing
star worshippers

7 You are the Lord, the God who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the

(Gen. 17)

(Gen. 15) **Regeneration preceded faith**

Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham. 8 You found his heart faithful before

Abrahamic Covenant

you, and made with him the covenant to give to his offspring the land of the

Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite.

Promise made, promise kept

And you have kept your promise, for you are righteous.



A Recollection of Redemption vs. 5-37

Exodus & Wanderings vs. 9-21

Summary of Exodus, Numbers, & Deuteronomy

Ex. 2:24—Heard the cries of His people
& remembered His covenant w/ Abraham

Plagues

You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt...You performed signs and wonders

Egypt mocked Israel

against Pharaoh...You knew they acted arrogantly against our fathers...and You

Vindicated His people

made a name for Yourself as it is to this day...You divided the sea...they went

through, and You cast their pursuers into the depths...



A Recollection of Redemption vs. 5-37

Exodus & Wanderings vs. 9-21

Summary of Exodus, Numbers, & Deuteronomy

Shade by day

Light by night

You led them with a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night to light for

them the way they should go...You came down on Mt Sinai & spoke with them from

Didn't leave them guessing what is true, beautiful, & good

Gift of Rest

Heaven & gave them right rules & true laws...You made known to them your holy

Sabbath...You commanded them commandments & statutes & a law by Moses...You

Provisional & tangible graces

gave them bread from Heaven for their hunger & brought water out of a rock for

their thirst...Another covenant promise fulfilled (Abrahamic)
You told them to go in to possess the land that you had sworn to give to

them



A Recollection of Redemption vs. 5-37

Summary of Exodus, Numbers, & Deuteronomy

Exodus & Wanderings vs. 9-21

Same word used to
describe Egyptians in v. 10

Egypt acted arrogant toward men
Israel acted arrogant toward God

16 “But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey Your commandments. 17 They refused to obey and were not mindful of Given everything- appreciated nothing the wonders that You performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But You are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more did not forsake them.



A Recollection of Redemption vs. 5-37

Conquest, Judges, Prophets, & Exile vs. 22-37

Summary of
Joshua/Judges/Kings, The Prophets,
Daniel/Chronicles/Ezra/Nehemiah

Another covenant promise fulfilled (Abrahamic)

You gave them kingdoms and peoples...You multiplied their children as the stars of

Heaven...you brought them into the land and they possessed it...you subdued the

Loved the graces while neglecting the Grace Giver

inhabitants...they ate and were filled and became fat & delighted themselves in Your

great goodness...



A Recollection of Redemption vs. 5-37

Conquest, Judges, Prophets, & Exile vs. 22-37

Summary of
Joshua/Judges/Kings, The Prophets,
Daniel/Chronicles/Ezra/Nehemiah

Given everything—appreciated nothing

And...nevertheless they were disobedient & rebelled against You...they killed Your

prophets who warned them to turn back to You and committed great blasphemies...

God in grace tried to warn them this would happen

therefore You gave them into the hands of their enemies, who made them suffer...

and in their suffering they cried to You...and You heard them...and delivered them

according to Your mercies...You bore with them yet they would not give

Unparalleled mercy & grace

ear...nevertheless in Your great mercies You did not make an end of them or forsake

Even when we do not

them...for You are a gracious and merciful God...who keeps covenant...



A Recollection of Redemption vs. 5-37

Conquest, Judges, Prophets, & Exile vs. 22-37

Summary of
Joshua/Judges/Kings, The Prophets,
Daniel/Chronicles/Ezra/Nehemiah

36 Behold, we are slaves this day in the land that You gave to our fathers to enjoy its
fruits and its good gifts, behold we are slaves...37 You have set them [kings] over us
because of our sins...we are in great distress

*When we sin we continue to look at all the good things
God has done for us & still choose rebellion*



A Recollection of Redemption vs. 5-37

“4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.”

-Ephesians 2:4-5

“Jesus took what is ours in order to give us what is His.”

-St. Irenaeus of Lyons



A Rededication v. 38

Recollection of God's goodness & their sin led to a recovenanting w/ the Lord

38 Because of all this we make a firm covenant in writing; on the sealed document are the names of our princes, our Levites, and our priests.

- How do you need to respond to the Word of the Lord?
- What sin do you need to confess?
- Where do you need to rededicate/recovenant with the Lord?
- Why would you not bow your knee to Jesus & His Lordship in your life?

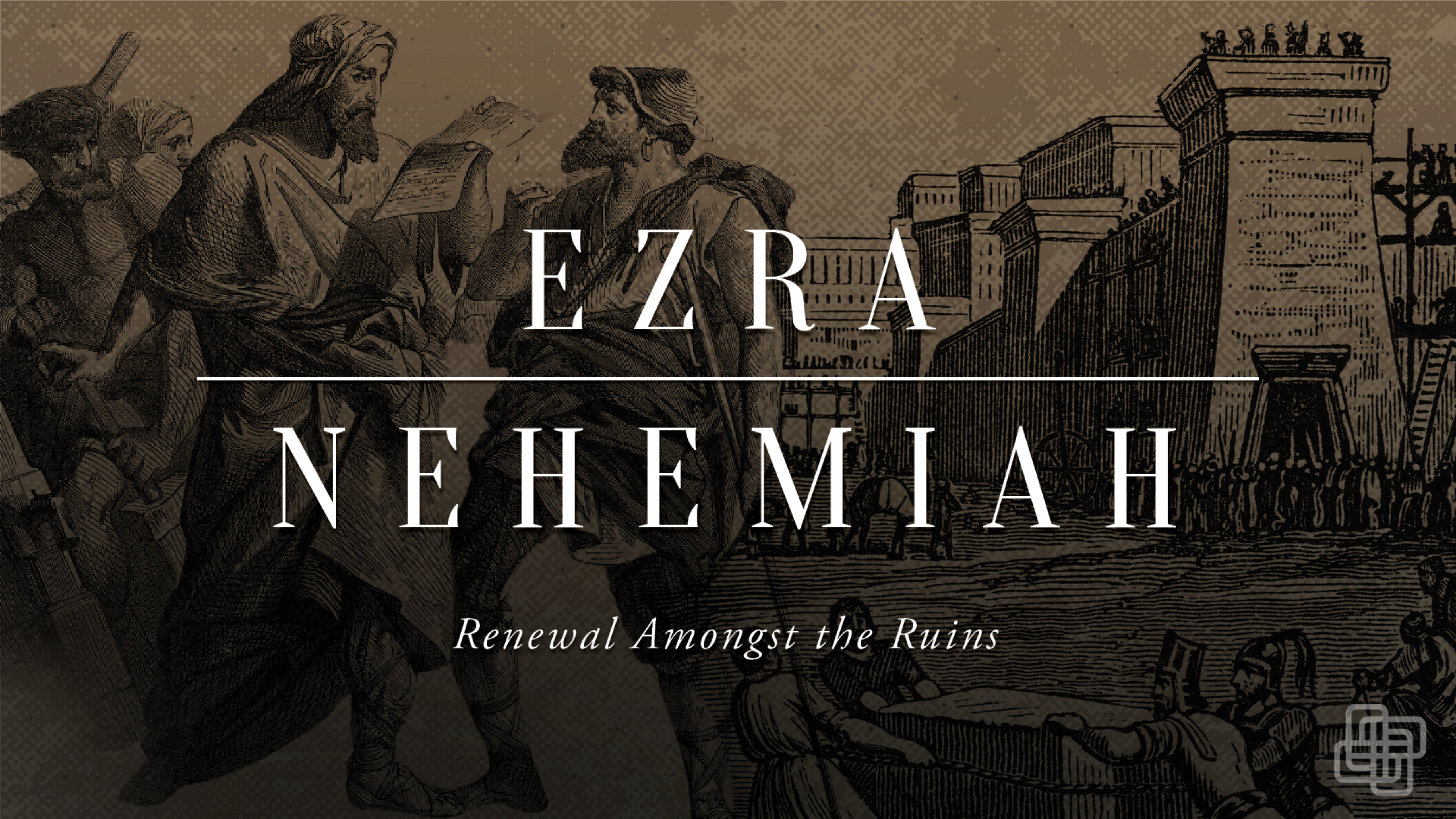


Gospel Reminder:

God's grip on you, believer, is infinitely greater than your grip on Him.

Respond. Remember. Run to the Lord.



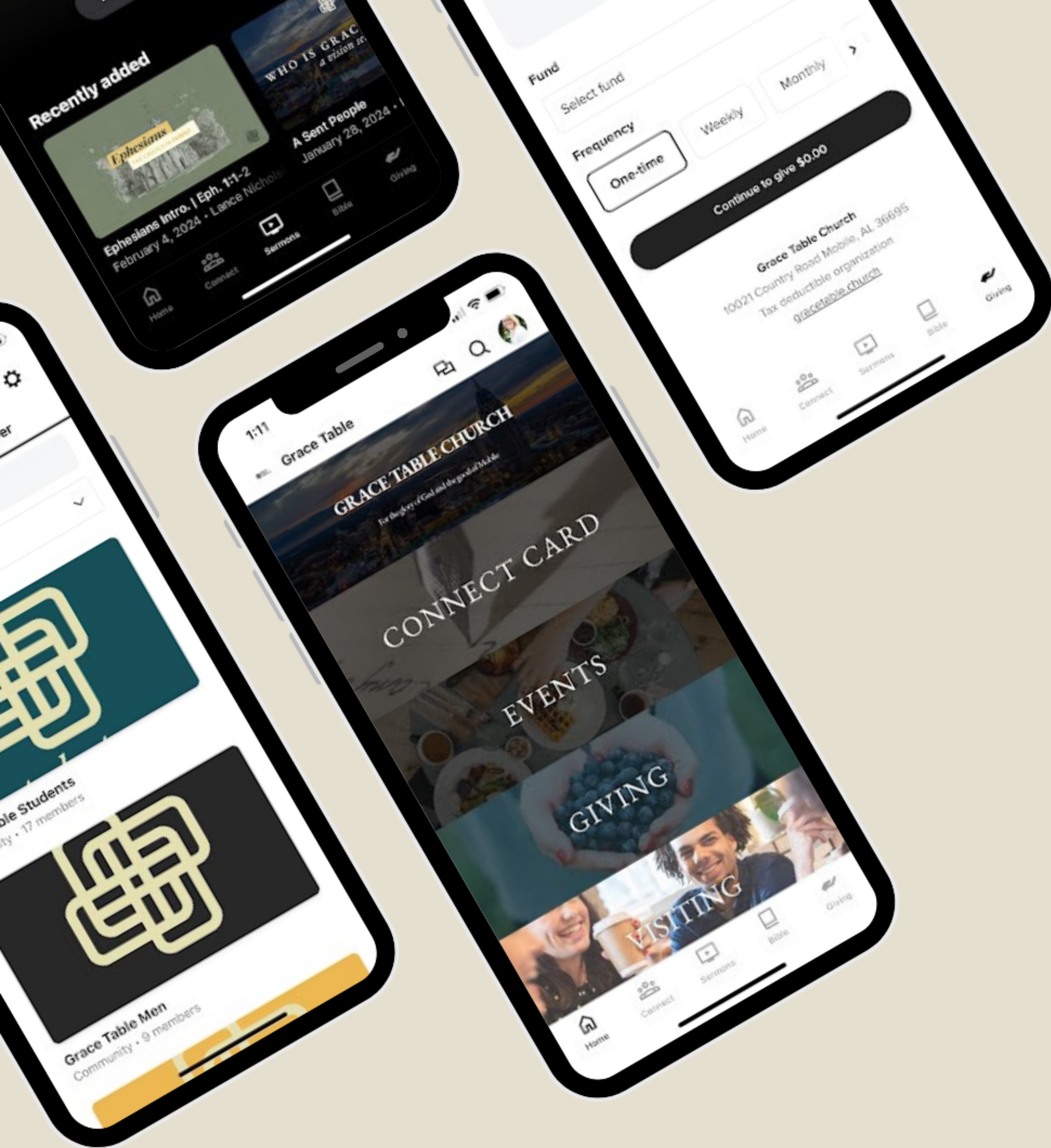


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NEHEMIAH

Renewal Amongst the Ruins





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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.

