

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

Renewal Amongst the Ruins



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



Ezra 6:1-12

*1 King Darius gave the order, and they searched in the library of Babylon in the archives.
2 But it was in the fortress of Ecbatana in the province of Media that a scroll was found with this record written on it: 3 In the first year of King Cyrus, he issued a decree concerning the house of God in Jerusalem: Let the house be rebuilt as a place for offering sacrifices, and let its original foundations be retained. Its height is to be ninety feet and its width ninety feet, 4 with three layers of cut stones and one of timber. The cost is to be paid from the royal treasury. 5 The gold and silver articles of God's house that Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem and carried to Babylon must also be returned. They are to be brought to the temple in Jerusalem where they belong and put into the house of God.*



Ezra 6:1-12

6 Therefore, you must stay away from that place, Tattenai governor of the region west of the Euphrates River, Shethar-bozenai, and your colleagues, the officials in the region.

7 Leave the construction of the house of God alone. Let the governor and elders of the Jews rebuild this house of God on its original site.

8 I hereby issue a decree concerning what you are to do, so that the elders of the Jews can rebuild the house of God:

The cost is to be paid in full to these men out of the royal revenues from the taxes of the region west of the Euphrates River, so that the work will not stop. 9 Whatever is needed— young bulls, rams, and lambs for burnt offerings to the God of the heavens, or wheat, salt, wine, and oil, as requested by the priests in Jerusalem—let it be given to them every day without fail,



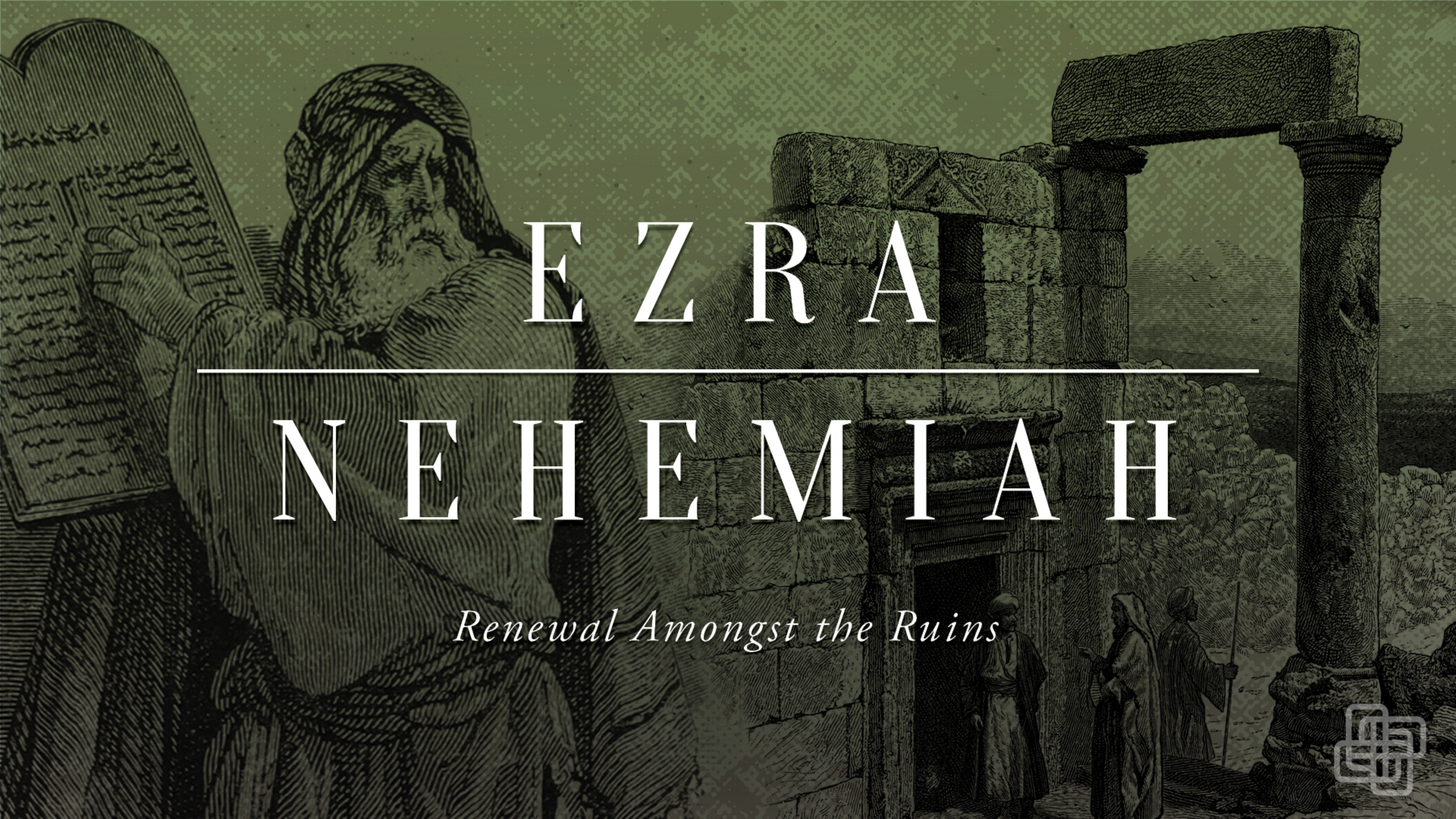
Ezra 6:1-12

10 so that they can offer sacrifices of pleasing aroma to the God of the heavens and pray for the life of the king and his sons.

11 I also issue a decree concerning any man who interferes with this directive:

Let a beam be torn from his house and raised up; he will be impaled on it, and his house will be made into a garbage dump because of this offense. 12 May the God who caused his name to dwell there overthrow any king or people who dares to harm or interfere with this house of God in Jerusalem. I, Darius, have issued the decree. Let it be carried out diligently.





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EZRA 4-6:12

1. Opposition comes after a refusal to compromise Ch 4

Not all opposition is hostile sometimes it comes wrapped in friendly compromise.

The faithfulness of God's people is threatened as much by dilution as by destruction.

Polycarp

Bonhoeffer

David

Daniel

Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego



EZRA 4-6:12

2. God rebuilds through faithful obedience.

Jesus faced the same temptation: shortcuts to glory without obedience.

The gospel reminds us that faithfulness is how the Father is rebuilding what was lost in Genesis 3

18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-21



EZRA 4-6:12

3. God Rebuilds Through the Faithful Obedience of His Church

The Opposition of our day

1. Sexual Promiscuity (affirmation)
2. Promotion of Disunity (quarrelsome)
3. Distraction (may be the most dangerous)



EZRA 4-6:12

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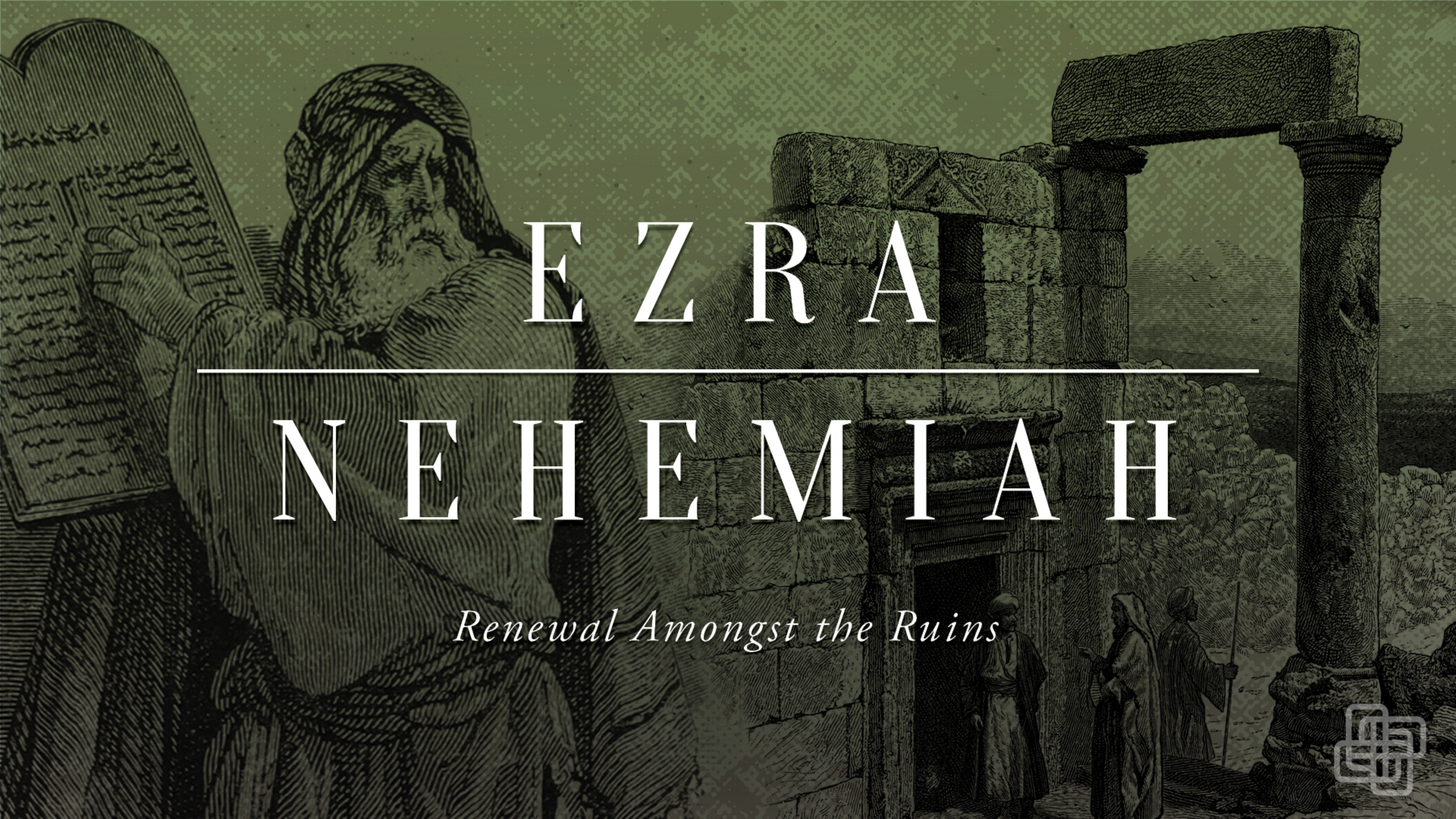
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So what does Faithful Obedience look like:

1. Remembering we were once the opposition
2. Actually follow Scripture in contending for unity
3. Soberminded, discerning and committed to
Spiritual disciplines



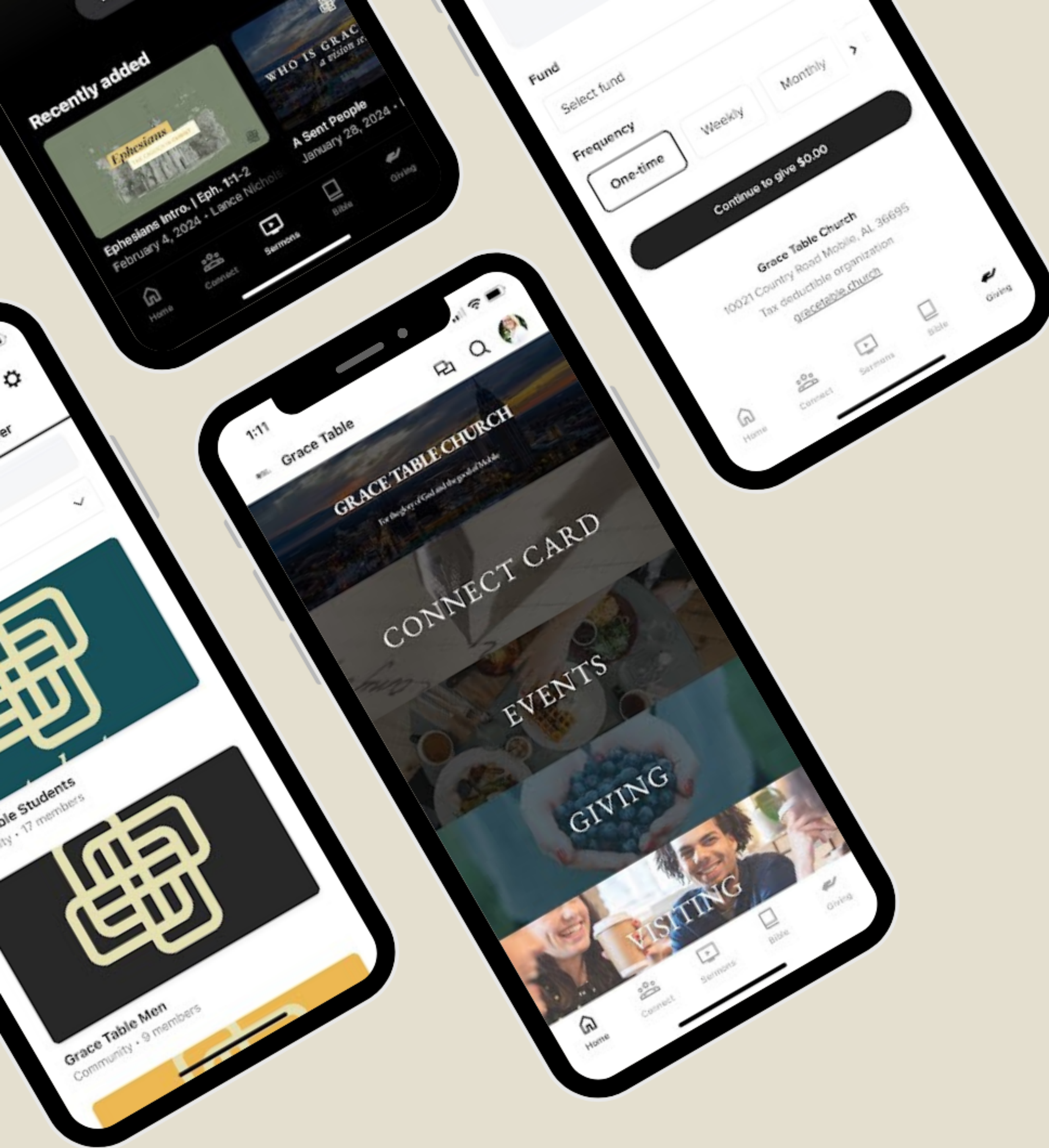


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JAN 25
POST-CHURCH

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.

