

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

Renewal Amongst the Ruins



O Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

Isaiah 25:1



Ezra 7 Word of Renewal

*6 this Ezra went up from Babylonia. He was a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses that the Lord, the God of Israel, had given, and the king granted him all that he asked, **for the hand of the Lord his God was on him.***

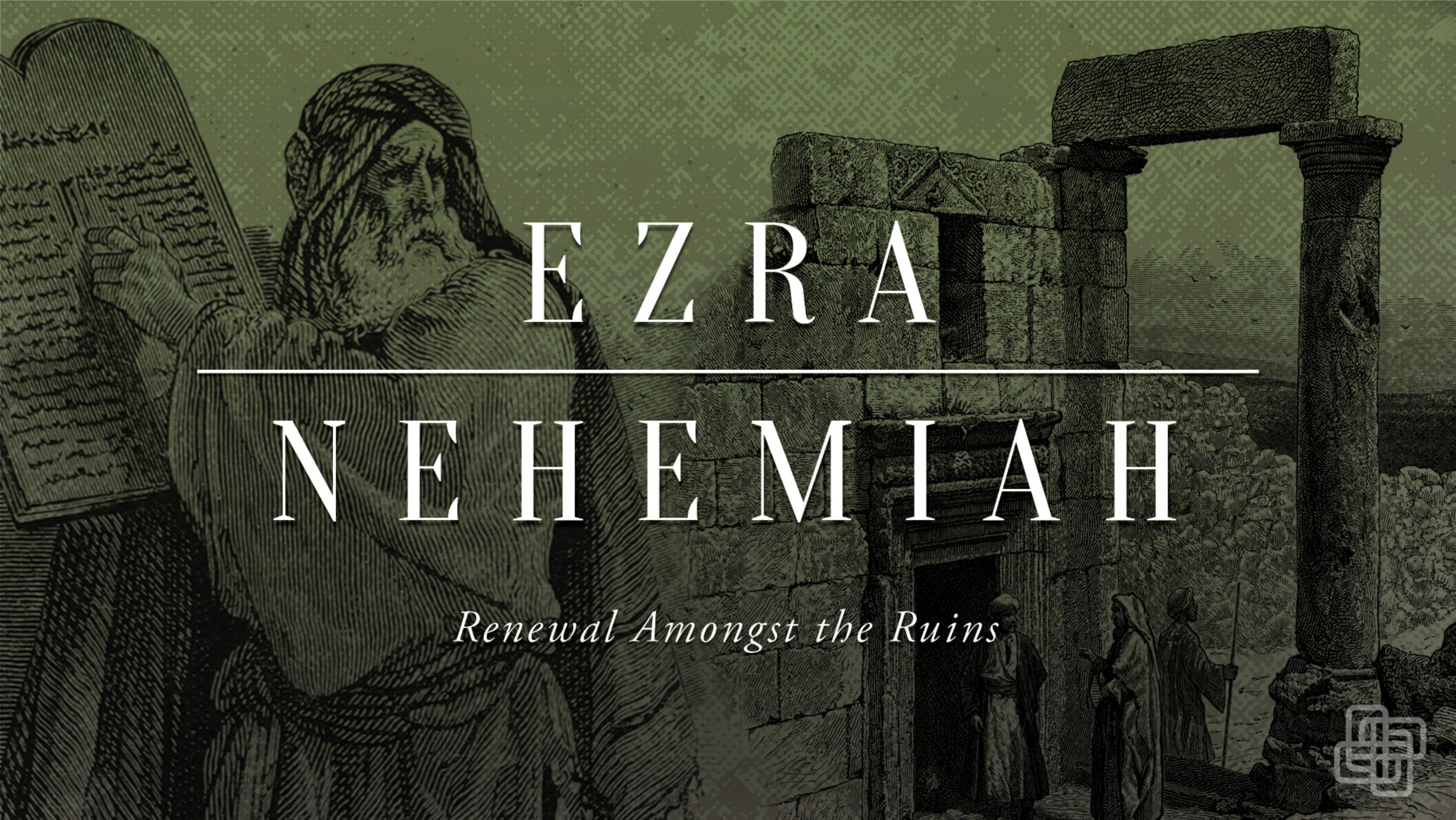
*9 For on the first day of the first month he began to go up from Babylonia, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, for the good hand of his God was on him. 10 For Ezra had set his heart to **study** the Law of the Lord, and to **do** it and to **teach** his statutes and rules in Israel.*



Ezra 7 Word of Renewal

27 Blessed be the Lord, the God of our fathers, who put such a thing as this into the heart of the king, to beautify the house of the Lord that is in Jerusalem, 28 and who extended to me his steadfast love before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty officers. I took courage, for the hand of the Lord my God was on me, and I gathered leading men from Israel to go up with me.





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EZRA 7 Word of Renewal

1. God Raises Leaders by Grace, Not Merit (Ezra 7:1–10)

“Grace is not opposed to effort; it is opposed to earning. Effort is action; earning is attitude.” — *The Great Omission Dallas Willard*

“For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.” (Ezra 7:10)

Notice the order:

- Study the Word
- Do the Word
- Teach the Word

Ezra’s influence flows from devotion, not position. He wasn’t formed overnight he was shaped by years of faithfulness in obscurity.



EZRA 7 Word of Renewal

2. God Moves Kings to Accomplish His Redemptive Purposes (Ezra 7:11–26)

A pagan king, Artaxerxes, funds Ezra's mission, protects his journey, and authorizes reform in Jerusalem. This is not political luck it is divine sovereignty.

Repeated phrase:

“The hand of the LORD his God was on him...” (Ezra 7:6, 9, 28)

God is not limited by rulers, governments, or systems. He bends the hearts of kings to accomplish His covenant promises.



EZRA 7 Word of Renewal

3. God Sends His Servants for the Renewal of His People (Ezra 7:27–28)

Ezra ends the chapter in worship, not pride:

“Blessed be the LORD... who put such a thing as this into the heart of the king...”

Ezra understands the mission isn't about him it's about *restoring* worship, *rebuilding* faith, and *renewing* obedience among God's people.



EZRA 7 Word of Renewal

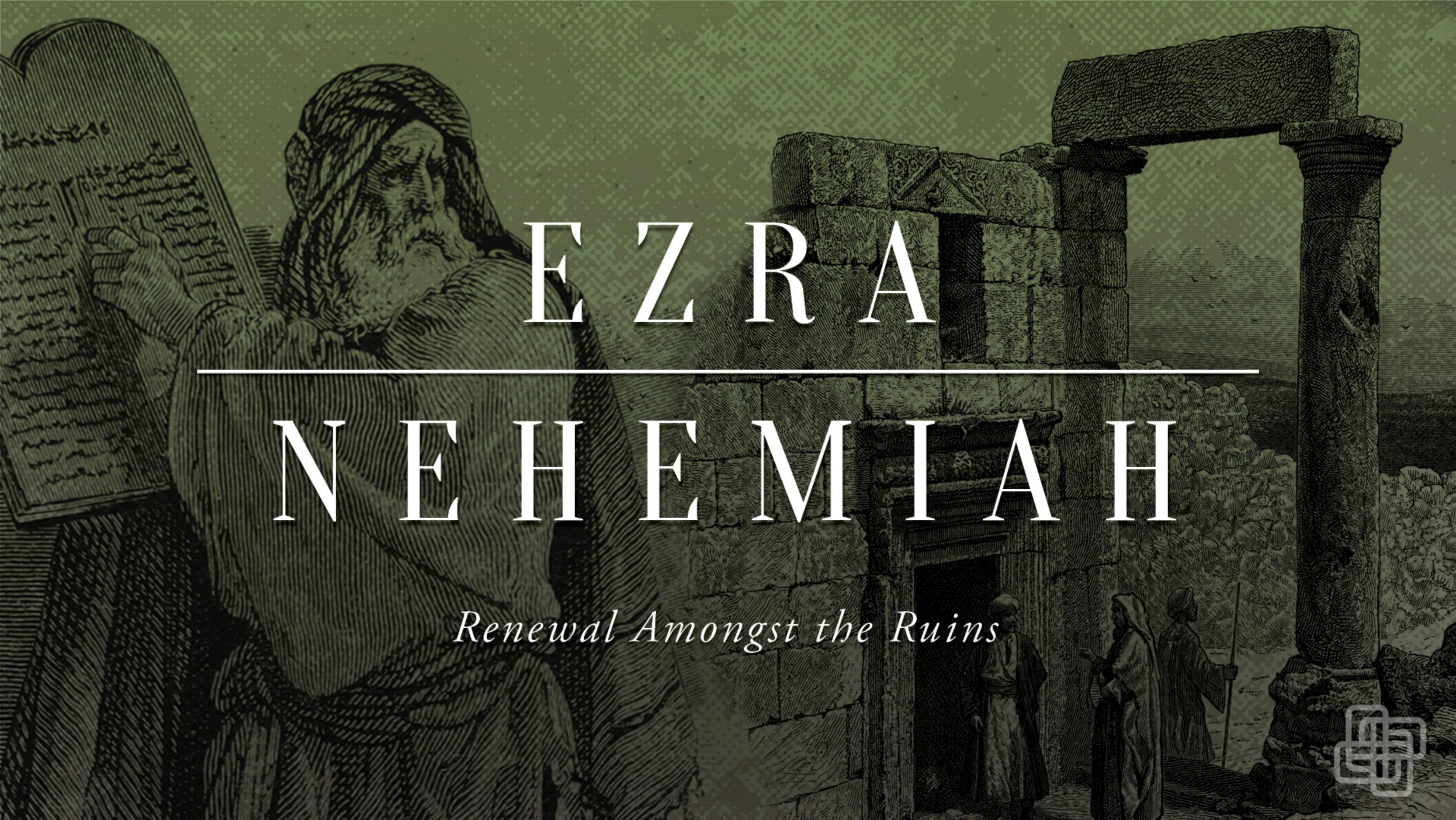
Ezra 7 is not ultimately about becoming more disciplined like Ezra it's about trusting the God who sends deliverers.

Because of Jesus:

- Our hearts are changed by grace
- Our obedience flows from love, not fear
- Our mission is empowered by God's hand, not our strength

“The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who are identified as Christians will become disciples; students, apprentices, practitioners of Jesus Christ.” - Dallas Willard



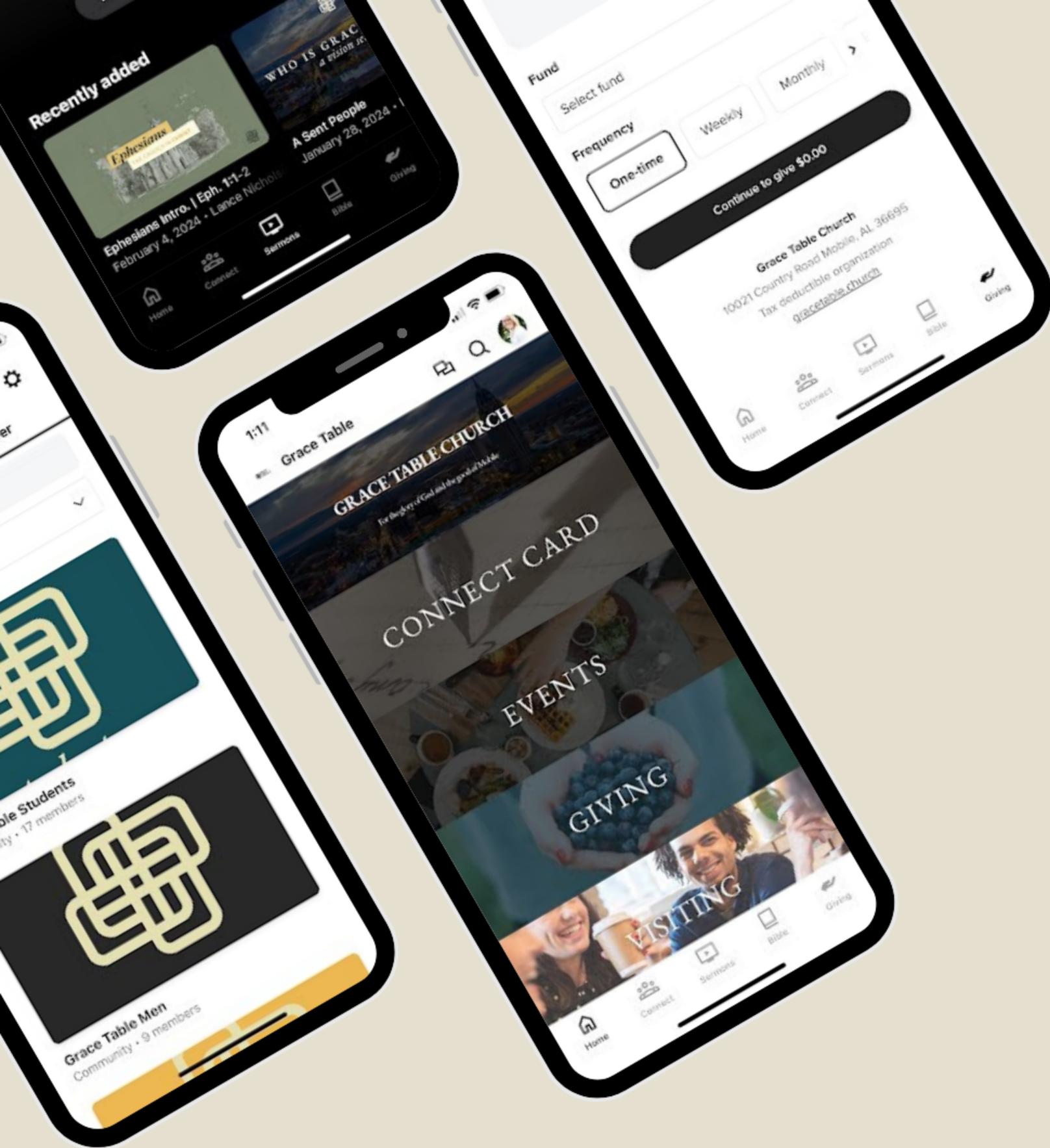


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GRACE TABLE

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.

