

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

Renewal Amongst the Ruins



But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. 3 For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

-Isaiah 43:1-3a



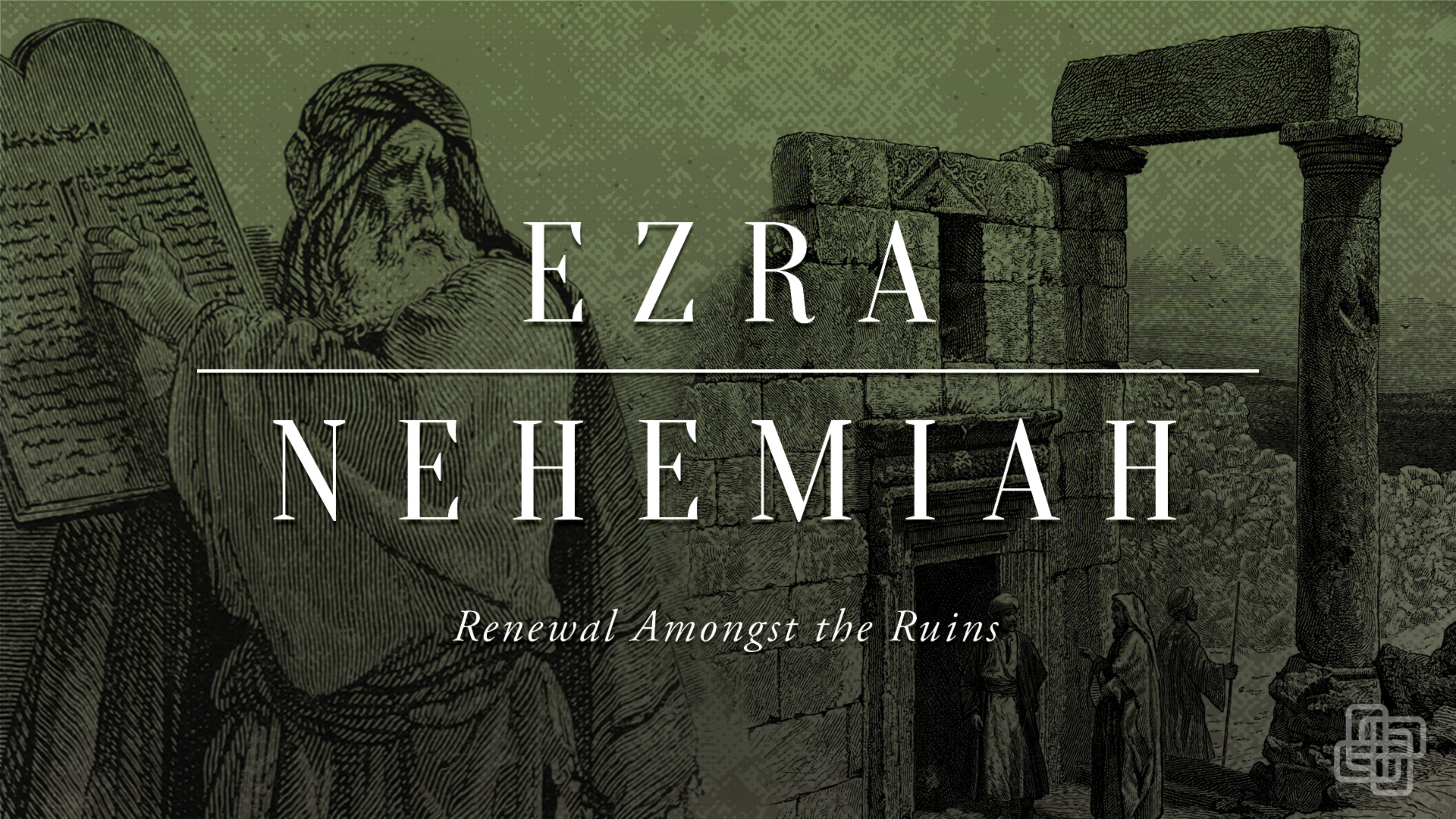
Ezra 2

....64 The whole assembly together was 42,360, 65 besides their male and female servants, of whom there were 7,337, and they had 200 male and female singers. 66 Their horses were 736, their mules were 245, 67 their camels were 435, and their donkeys were 6,720.

68 Some of the heads of families, when they came to the house of the Lord that is in Jerusalem, made freewill offerings for the house of God, to erect it on its site. 69 According to their ability they gave to the treasury of the work 61,000 darics of gold, 5,000 minas of silver, and 100 priests' garments.

70 Now the priests, the Levites, some of the people, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the temple servants lived in their towns, and all the rest of Israel in their towns.





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EZRA 2 OBSERVATIONS

1. God Restores People, Not Just Places (vs. 1–35)

Now these were the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of those exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried captive to Babylonia. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own town. 2 They

The Leaders

came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan,

Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah.



EZRA 2 OBSERVATIONS

2. God Values Faithful Presence Over Impressive Strength (vs. 36–42)

Responsible for Temple Duties (sacrifices, etc.)

36 The priests: the sons of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, 973. 37 The sons of Immer, 1,052. 38 The sons of Pashhur, 1,247. 39 The sons of Harim, 1,017.

Priest assistants

40 The Levites: the sons of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodaviah, 74.

Musicians

41 The singers: the sons of Asaph, 128. 42 The sons of the gatekeepers: the sons of

Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the sons of

Hatita, and the sons of Shobai, in all 139.



EZRA 2 OBSERVATIONS

3. God Balances Grace and Holiness in the Restored Community (vs. 59–63)

59 The following were those who came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer, though they could not prove their fathers' houses or their lineage of Aaron (Ex. 28)

descent, whether they belonged to Israel: 60 the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, and the sons of Nekoda, 652. 61 Also, of the sons of the priests: the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, and the sons of Barzillai (who had taken a wife from the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called by their name). 62 These sought their registration among those enrolled in the genealogies, but they were not
A grace for them b/c unconsecrated priests could be stuck dead
found there, and so they were excluded from the priesthood as unclean. 63 The

governor told them that they were not to partake of the most holy food, until there should be a priest to consult Urim and Thummim. stones kept in HP breastplate to cast lots to discern God's will



EZRA 2 OBSERVATIONS

4. God Moves His People to Joyful Generosity (vs. 64–70)

68 Some of the heads of families, when they came to the house of the Lord that is in

Grace —> Gratitude —> Generosity

Jerusalem, made freewill offerings for the house of God, to erect it on its site.

69 According to their ability they gave to the treasury of the work 61,000 darics of

gold, 5,000 minas of silver, and 100 priests' garments. 70 Now the priests, the

Levites, some of the people, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the temple servants

God was going to work through ordinary people mundane moments

lived in their towns, and all the rest of Israel in their towns.

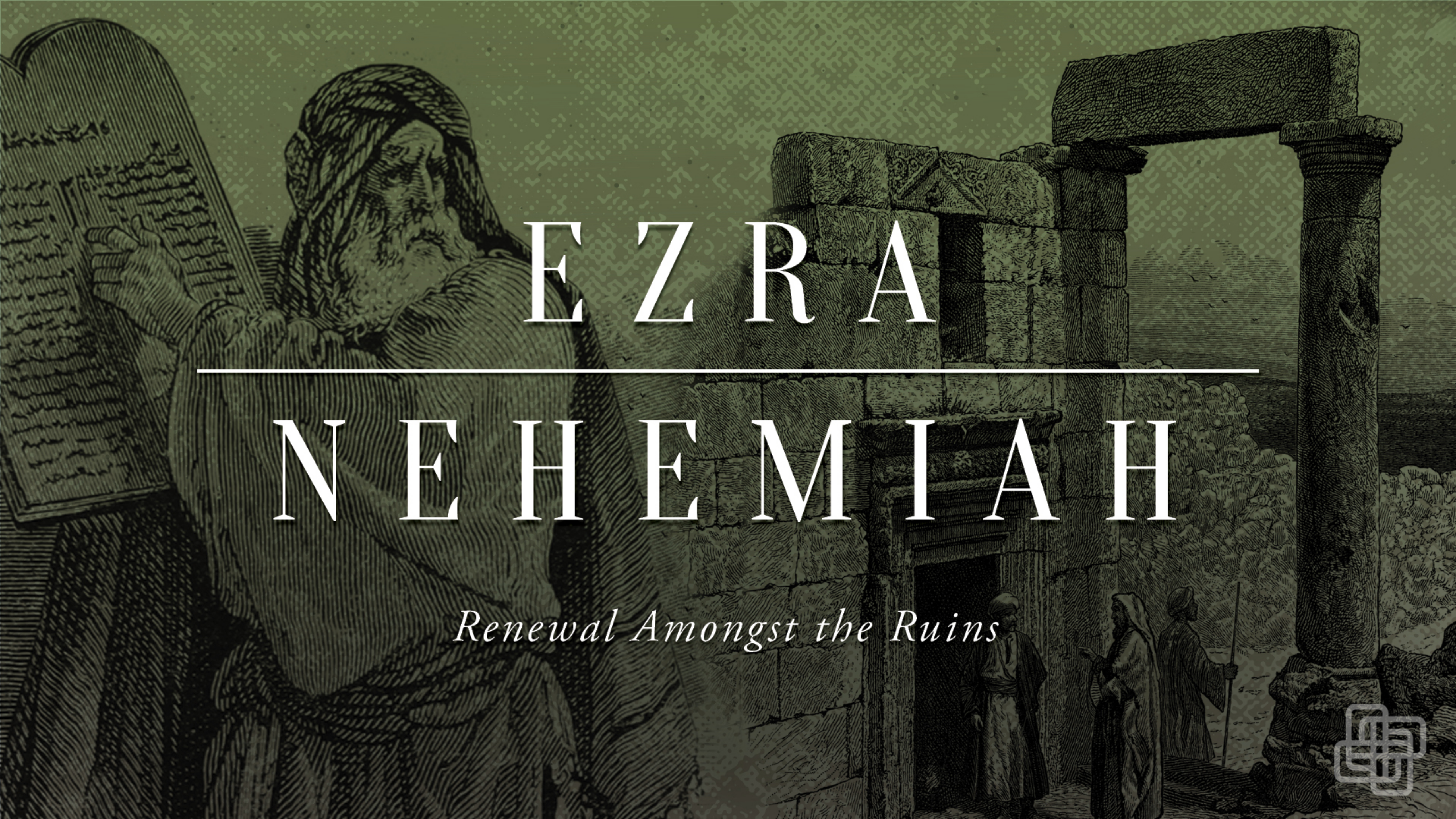


22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. 26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. 27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

-Revelation 21:22-27

Ezra 2 is a list of names written in ink. However, it points us to a better book written in blood: the Lamb's book of life.



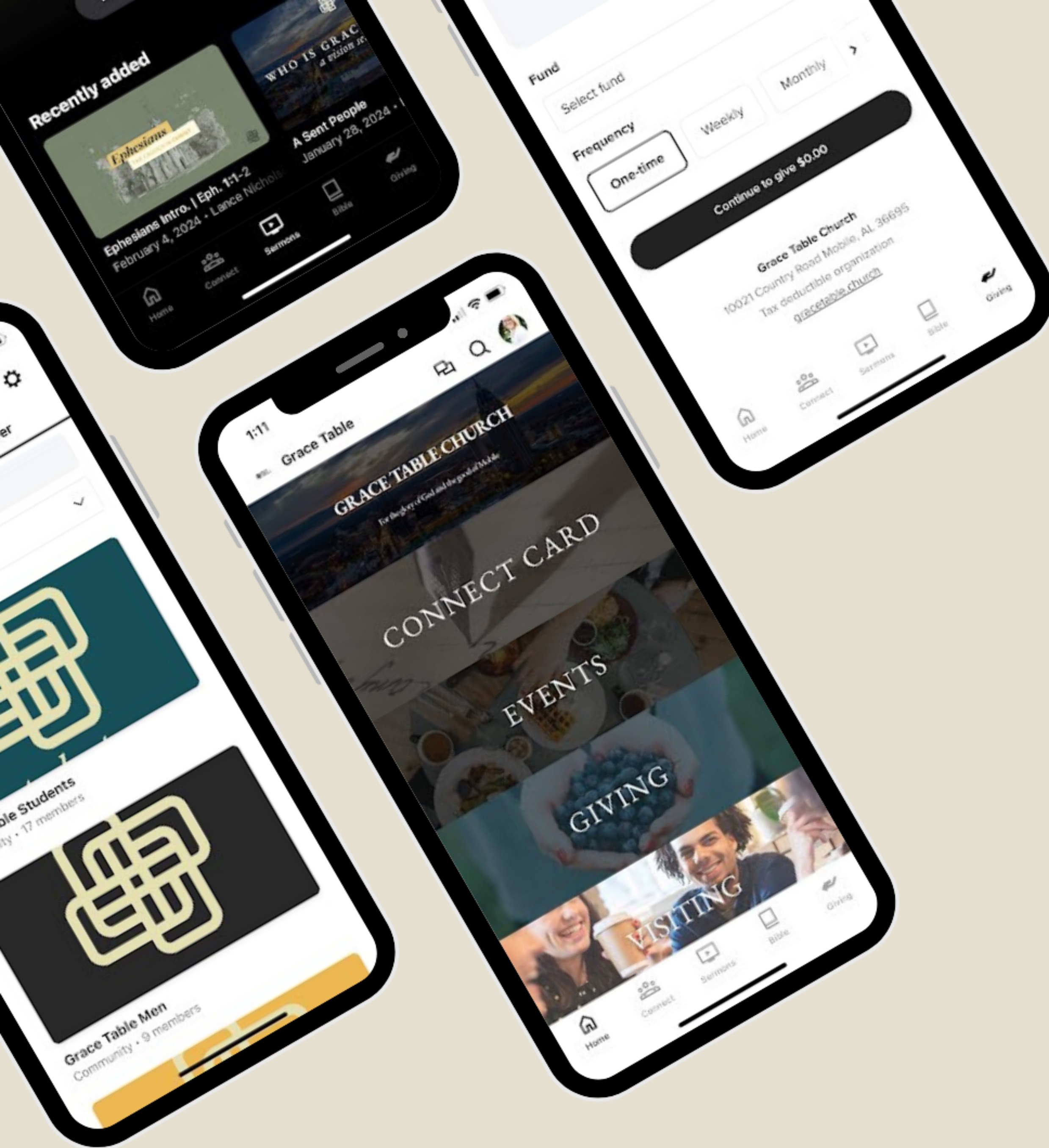


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GRACE TABLE

women's retreat

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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.

