

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

“We will love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our strength.

These commandments that you give us today will be upon our hearts. We will Impress them on our children.

We will talk about them when we sit at home and when we walk along the road, when we lie down and when we get up.

We will tie them as symbols on our hands and bind them on our foreheads.

We will write them on the doorframes of your houses and on our gates.”

Johnathan and Christa:

- **Do you receive this child with gratitude, as God's gift to you and your family?**
- **Do you commit to each other as parents, creating a stable environment in which your child can mature?**
- **Will you make a covenant to strengthen your marriage relationship?**
- **Do you commit to be parents of personal faith, recognizing your children are more likely to follow God's path by the model they first observe in you?**
- **Do you commit to leave a faith filled home that honors God and all your relationships and then the choices you make on the path of spiritually growing your family?**
- **Do you commit to be parents with patience, recognizing that with your inherent strengths and weaknesses, your desire to shape your child is a loving commitment that will require time, prayer, and the work of God Himself in order to produce in your children what He would desire for them?**

Congregation:

- **Will you commit to supporting Johnathan and Christa on their perilous journey of parenting..... Zoe and Logan?**
- **Are you willing to speak grace and truth into the lives of Zoe and Logan when and if you have the opportunity?**
- **Will you join us now, and in the future, of asking the Lord to draw these two children into an intimate relationship with Him?**

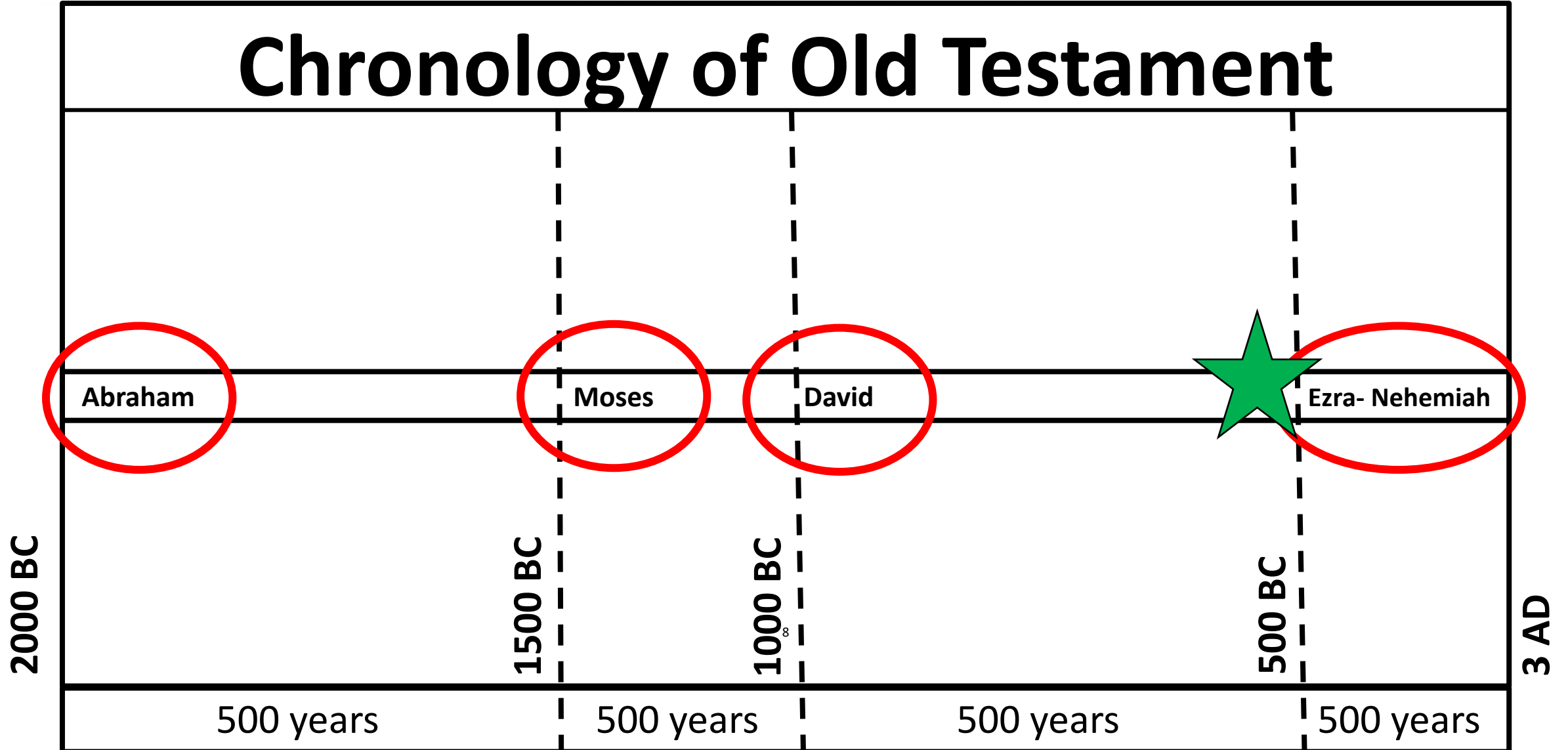


REBUILD

a study of Ezra and Nehemiah

REBUILD

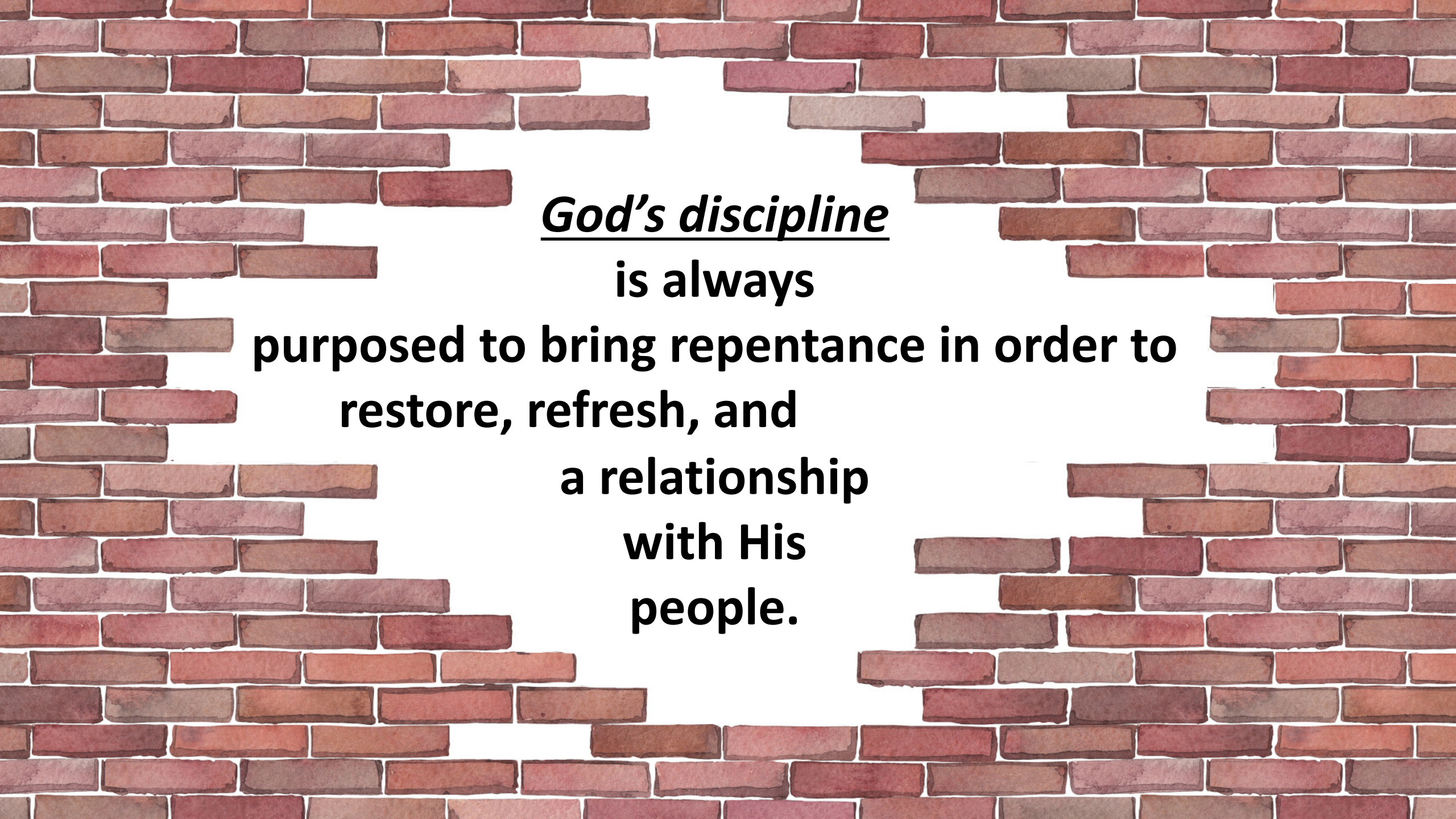
Chronology of Old Testament



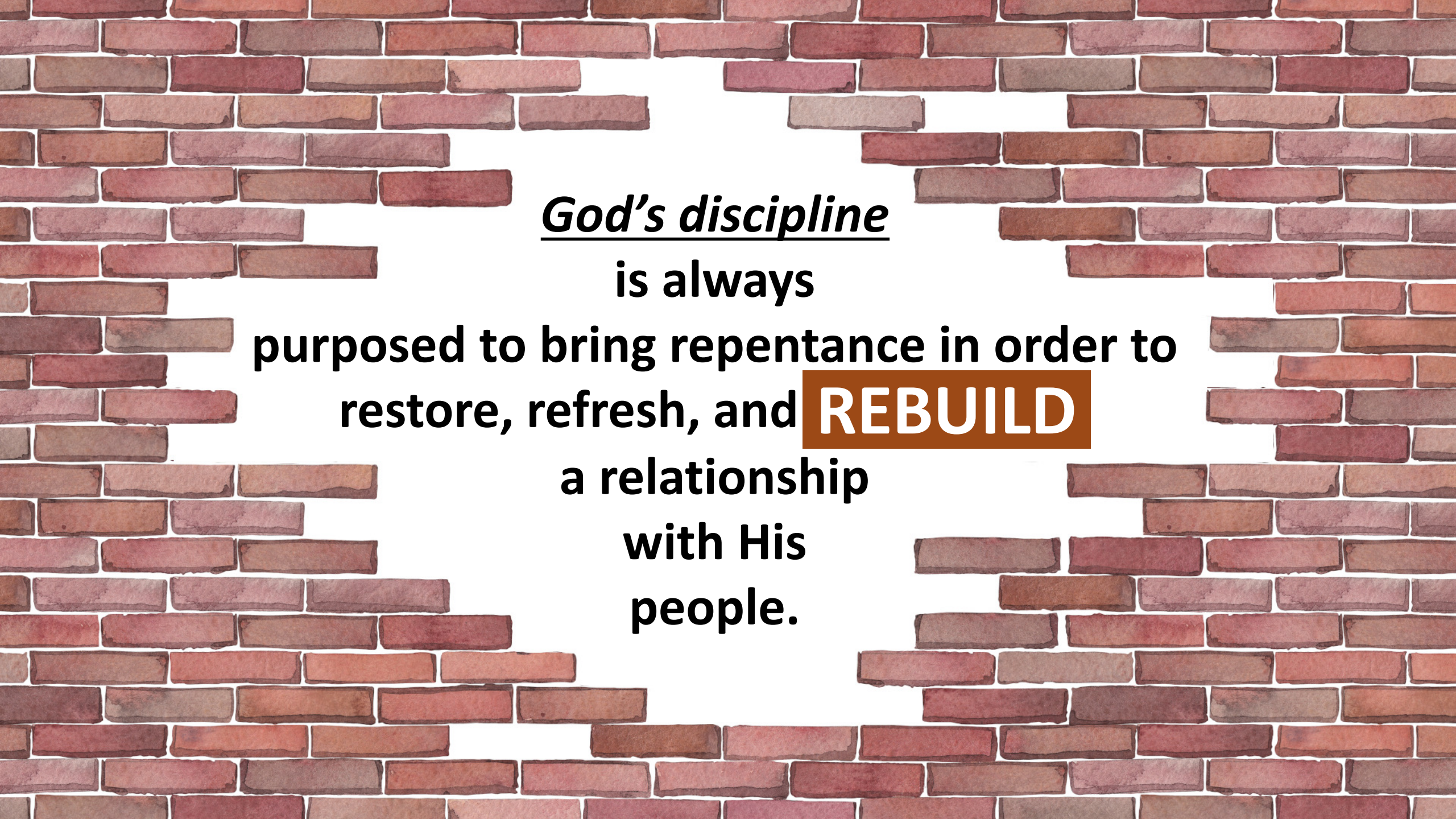
A background of a red brick wall with a white rectangular area in the center containing text.

Discipline:

training that corrects, molds,
or matures mental faculties or
moral character.



God's discipline
is always
purposed to bring repentance in order to
restore, refresh, and
a relationship
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God's discipline
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Hebrews 12:1-14

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses

Recognize that God's character is that of being a Father...

...who disciplines His children out of love for them...

...in order to mold them and mature them...

...with a maturity that radiates God's holiness...

**...and empowers His people to be strong and courageous
while being tenderized by a heart of peace.**

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Chronology of Ezra and Nehemiah

Cyrus	Darius	Xerxes I	Artaxerxes
1st Return under Zerubbabel (Temple)	Events of the book of Esther	2 nd Return under Ezra (People)	3 rd Return under Nehemiah (Wall)
Ezra 1-6	Book of Esther	Ezra 7-10	Book of Nehemiah
538-515 B.C.	475 B.C.	458-457 B. C.	445-430 B.C.
Zechariah Haggai		Malachi	

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REBUILD

Ezra chapters 5-6

God Brings People Home

REBUILD

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REBUILD

Ezra chapters 7-8

God's Word

Transforms People

REBUILD

4 Stages of each 'Return'

Stage 1: God "stirs up" the Persian King.

Stage 2: The Persian King commissions a Jewish leader to undertake a task.

Stage 3: The Jewish leader overcomes opposition and succeeds.

Stage 4: Success is marked by a great assembly.

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Ezra 7

- 1 Now after this, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia,
Ezra the son of Seraiah, son of Azariah, son of Hilkiah,
- 2 son of Shallum, son of Zadok, son of Ahitub,
- 3 son of Amariah, son of Azariah, son of Meraioth,
- 4 son of Zerahiah, son of Uzzi, son of Bukki,
- 5 son of Abishua, son of Phinehas, son of Eleazar,
son of Aaron the chief priest--
- 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.
- 7 And there went up also to Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king,
some of the people of Israel, and some of the priests and Levites,
the singers and gatekeepers, and the temple servants.
- 8 And Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month,
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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.

11 This is a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest, the scribe, a man learned in matters of the commandments of the LORD and his statutes for Israel:

12 "Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven. Peace. And now

13 I make a decree that anyone of the people of Israel or their priests or Levites in my kingdom, who freely offers to go to Jerusalem, may go with you.

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14

For you are sent by the king and his seven counselors to make inquiries about Judah and Jerusalem according to the Law of your God, which is in your hand,

15

and also to carry the silver and gold that the king and his counselors have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem,

16

with all the silver and gold that you shall find in the whole province of Babylonia, and with the freewill offerings of the people and the priests, vowed willingly for the house of their God that is in Jerusalem.

17

With this money, then, you shall with all diligence buy bulls, rams, and lambs, with their grain offerings and their drink offerings, and you shall offer them on the altar of the house of your God that is in Jerusalem.

18

Whatever seems good to you and your brothers to do with the rest of the silver and gold, you may do, according to the will of your God.

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For you are sent by the king and his seven counselors to make inquiries about Judah and Jerusalem according to the Law of your God, which is in your hand,

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19

The vessels that have been given you for the service of the house of your God, you shall deliver before the God of Jerusalem.

20

And whatever else is required for the house of your God, which it falls to you to provide, you may provide it out of the king's treasury.

21

"And I, Artaxerxes the king, make a decree to all the treasurers in the province Beyond the River: Whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven, requires of you, let it be done with all diligence,

22

up to 100 talents of silver,
100 cors of wheat,
100 baths of wine,
100 baths of oil,
and salt without prescribing how much.

23

Whatever is decreed by the God of heaven, let it be done in full for the house of the God of heaven, lest His wrath be against the realm of the king and his sons.

24

We also notify you that it shall not be lawful to impose tribute, custom, or toll on anyone of the priests, the Levites, the singers, the doorkeepers, the temple servants, or other servants of this house of God.

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"And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God that is in your hand, appoint magistrates and judges who may judge all the people in the province Beyond the River, all such as know the laws of your God.

And those who do not know them, you shall teach.

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Whoever will not obey the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be strictly executed on him, whether for death

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II Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable

- for teaching,
- for reproof,
- for correction,
- and for training in righteousness,

that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

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Hebrews 4:12-13

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

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XOXOXO, Arty

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Sincerely Yours, Artaxerxes

24

We also notify you that it shall not be lawful to impose tribute, custom, or toll on anyone of the priests, the Levites, the singers, the doorkeepers, the temple servants, or other servants of this house of God.

25

"And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God that is in your hand, appoint magistrates and judges who may judge all the people in the province Beyond the River, all such as know the laws of your God.

And those who do not know them, you shall teach.

26

Whoever will not obey the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be strictly executed on him, whether for death

or for banishment

or for confiscation of his goods

or for imprisonment."

By the power vested in me, King Artaxerxes 1

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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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.

Ezra 8

- 1** These are the heads of their fathers' houses, and this is the genealogy of those who went up with me from Babylonia, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king:
- 2** Of the sons of Phinehas, Gershom.
Of the sons of Ithamar, Daniel.
Of the sons of David, Hattush.
- 3** Of the sons of Shecaniah, who was of the sons of Parosh, Zechariah, with whom were registered 150 men.
- 4** Of the sons of Pahath-moab, Eliehoenai the son of Zerahiah, and with him 200 men.
- 5** Of the sons of Zattu, Shecaniah the son of Jahaziel, and with him 300 men.
- 6** Of the sons of Adin, Ebed the son of Jonathan, and with him 50 men.
- 7** Of the sons of Elam, Jeshaiah the son of Athaliah, and with him 70 men.
- 8** Of the sons of Shephatiah, Zebadiah the son of Michael, and with him 80 men.
- 9** Of the sons of Joab, Obadiah the son of Jehiel, and with him 218 men.
- 10** Of the sons of Bani, Shelomith the son of Josiphiah, and with him 160 men.
- 11** Of the sons of Bebai, Zechariah, the son of Bebai, and with him 28 men.
- 12** Of the sons of Azgad, Johanan the son of Hakkatan, and with him 110 men.
- 13** Of the sons of Adonikam, those who came later, their names being Eliphelet, Jeuel, and Shemaiah, and with them 60 men.
- 14** Of the sons of Bigvai, Uthai and Zaccur, and with them 70 men.

15 I gathered them to the river that runs to Ahava, and there we camped three days.

As I reviewed the people and the priests, I found there none of the sons of Levi.

16 Then I sent for Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah, Elnathan, Jarib, Elnathan, Nathan, Zechariah, and Meshullam, leading men, and for Joiarib and Elnathan, who were men of insight,

17 and sent them to Iddo, the leading man at the place Casiphia, telling them what to say to Iddo and his brothers and the temple servants at the place Casiphia, namely, to send us ministers for the house of our God.

18 And by the good hand of our God on us, they brought us a man of discretion, of the sons of Mahli the son of Levi, son of Israel, namely Sherebiah with his sons and kinsmen, 18;

19 also Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiiah of the sons of Merari, with his kinsmen and their sons, 20;

20 besides 220 of the temple servants, whom David and his officials had set apart to attend the Levites. These were all mentioned by name.

15 I gathered them to the river that runs to Ahava, and there we camped three days.

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People of Community

20 besides 220 of the temple servants, whom David and his officials had set apart to attend the Levites. These were all mentioned by name.

- 21** Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods.
- 22** For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king,
"The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him,
and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him."
- 23** So we fasted and implored our God for this, and He listened to our entreaty.

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and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him."
- 23 So we fasted and implored our God for this, and He listened to our entreaty.

People of Prayer

- 24** Then I set apart twelve of the leading priests: Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their kinsmen with them.
- 25** And I weighed out to them the silver and the gold and the vessels, the offering for the house of our God that the king and his counselors and his lords and all Israel there present had offered.
- 26** I weighed out into their hand 650 talents of silver,
and silver vessels worth 200 talents,
and 100 talents of gold,
- 27** 20 bowls of gold worth 1,000 darics,
and two vessels of fine bright bronze as precious as gold.

28 And I said to them,

"You are holy to the LORD, and the vessels are holy,
and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering to the LORD,
the God of your fathers.

29 Guard them and keep them until you weigh them before the chief priests
and the Levites and the heads of fathers' houses in Israel at
Jerusalem, within the chambers of the house of the LORD."

30 So the priests and the Levites took over the weight of the silver and the gold and the
vessels, to bring them to Jerusalem, to the house of our God.

31 Then we departed from the river Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month,
to go to Jerusalem.

The hand of our God was on us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy and
from ambushes by the way.

32 We came to Jerusalem, and there we remained three days.

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to go to Jerusalem.

The hand of our God was on us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy and
from ambushes by the way.

32 We came to Jerusalem, and there we remained three days.

33 On the fourth day, within the house of our God, the silver and the gold and the vessels were weighed into the hands of Meremoth the priest, son of Uriah, and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas, and with them were the Levites, Jozabad the son of Jeshua and Noadiah the son of Binnui.

34 The whole was counted and weighed, and the weight of everything was recorded.

35 At that time those who had come from captivity, the returned exiles, offered burnt offerings to the God of Israel, twelve bulls for all Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven lambs, and as a sin offering twelve male goats. All this was a burnt offering to the LORD.

36 They also delivered the king's commissions to the king's satraps and to the governors of the province Beyond the River, and they aided the people and the house of God.

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People of Integrity

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People of Worship

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35 At that time those who had come from captivity, the returned exiles, offered burnt offerings to the God of Israel

People of Generosity

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All this was a burnt offering to the LORD.

36 They also delivered the king's commissions to the king's satraps and to the governors of the province Beyond the River, and they aided the people and the house of God.



REBUILD

Ezra chapters 7-8

God's Word

Transforms People

So...therefore...what now?

So...therefore...what now?

God and His Word, truth, blueprint, and will are all magnificently beautiful and powerful to transform our lives...

So...therefore...what now?

God and His Word, truth, blueprint, and will are all
magnificently beautiful and powerful to transform our lives...
and to make us people of...

So...therefore...what now?

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Community

So...therefore...what now?

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Community

Prayer

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