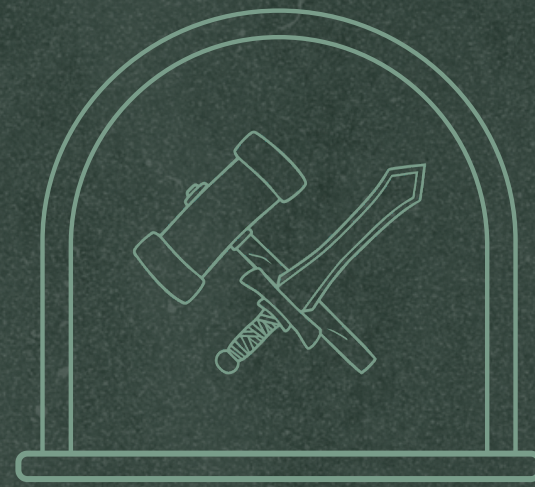




A STUDY IN EZRA & NEHEMIAH

FASTING *&* PRAYING

When God's Hand Leads Hungry People



Before God makes the way straight, His
people make their hearts low, and respond in
worship to what the Lord has done.

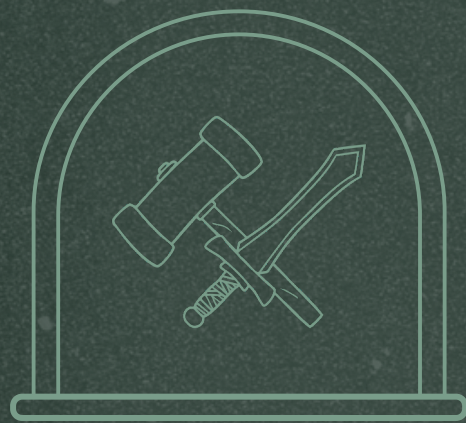


1) DEPENDENCE — Names kept,
needs exposed (Ezra 8:1–20)

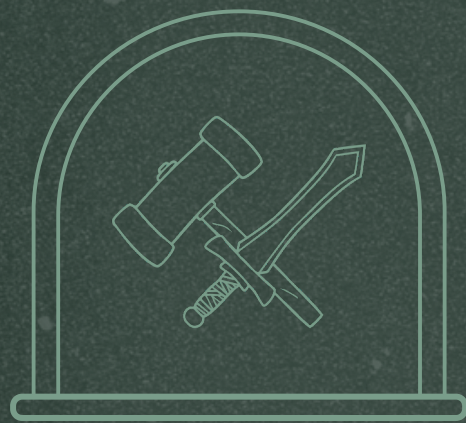
The same God who orders His worship
around Himself also knows and names his
people and supplies what is required.

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.

Isaiah 43:1



2) DESPERATION — Fasting &
prayer as embodied need
(Ezra 8:21–23)



Belief affects behavior.
Behavior reflects belief.



Prayer is verbalized dependence.



Prayer is verbalized dependence.
Fasting is embodied dependence.

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- Psalm 107:9 — “For he **satisfies the longing soul**, and the **hungry soul** he fills with good things.”

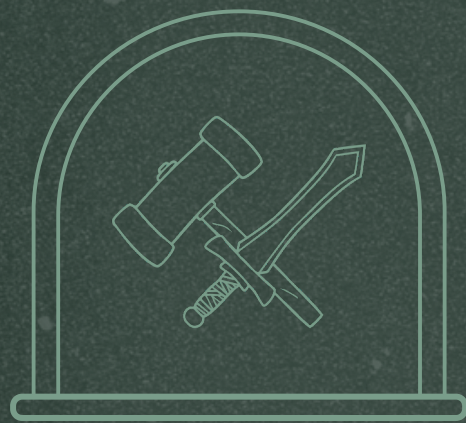
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- Matthew 4:4 — “Man shall **not live by bread alone**, but by **every word** that comes from the mouth of God.”

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- In a culture that **signals strength**, the church **confesses need**.

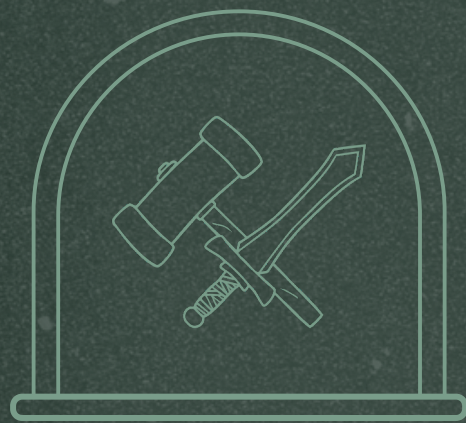
- In a culture that **sprints**, the church **kneels**.
- In a culture that **signals strength**, the church **confesses need**.
- In a culture that **holds tightly**, the church **loosens grip**.



3) DELIVERED — The hand of
God guards the journey
(Ezra 8:24–34)

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.
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.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Isaiah 43:1-3a



4) DEVOTION — Worship is the finish (Ezra 8:35–36)

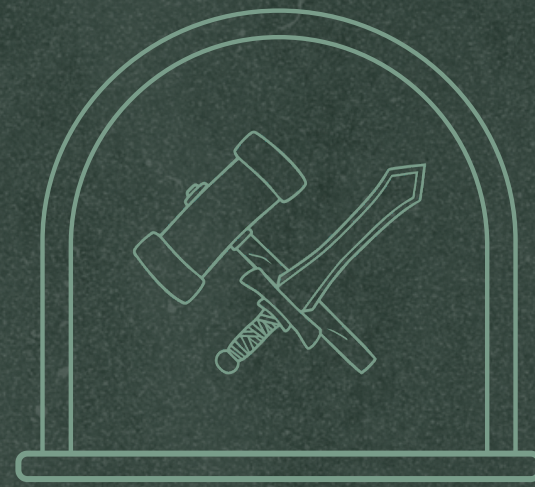
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- 1 Peter 2:9 — “But you are a chosen people...that you may **proclaim** the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”
- Romans 12:1 — “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”



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people make their hearts low, and respond in
worship to what the Lord has done.