TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

NEHEMIAH 5:1-8

Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews. Some were saying, “We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain.”

NEHEMIAH **5:1-2**

Others were saying, “We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine.”

NEHEMIAH **5:3**

Still others were saying, “We have had to borrow money to pay the king’s tax on our fields and vineyards.”

NEHEMIAH 5:4

“Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our fellow Jews and though our children are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but we are powerless, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others.”

NEHEMIAH **5:5**

When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry. I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, “You are charging your own people interest!”

NEHEMIAH **5:6-7**

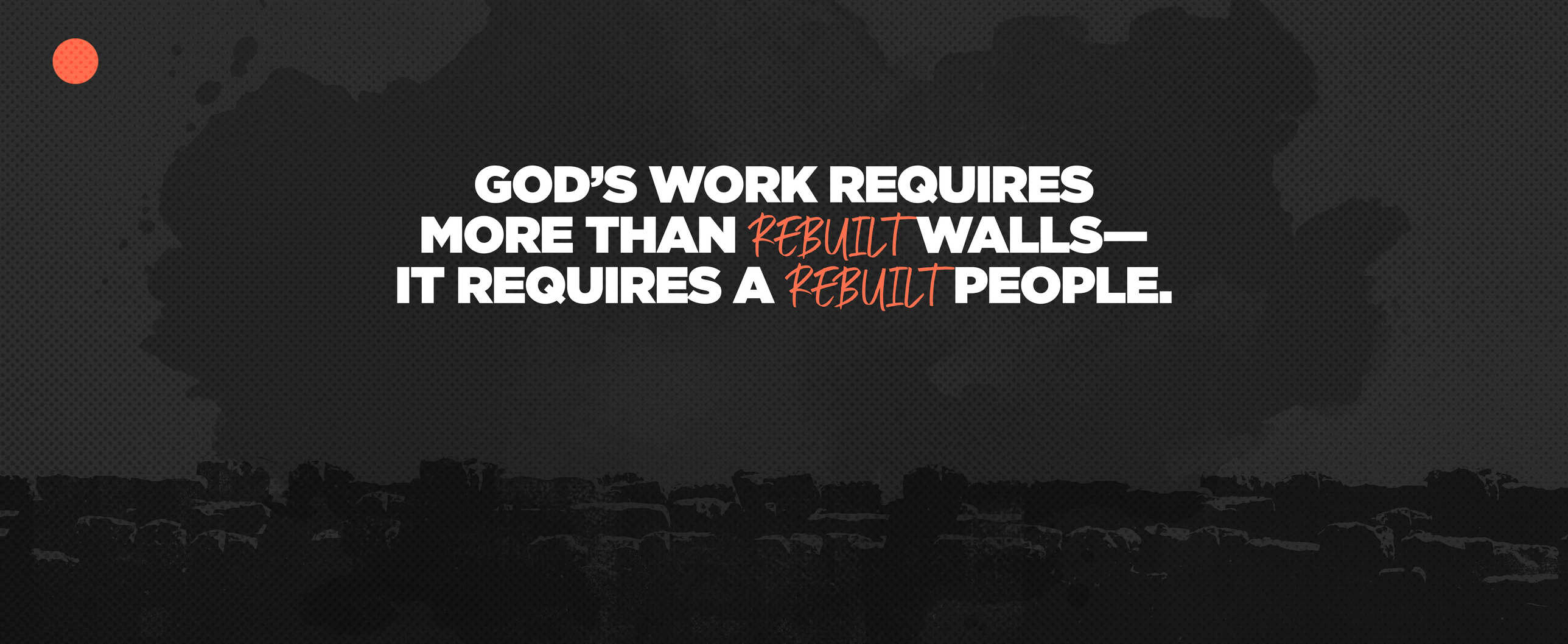
So I called together a large meeting to deal with them and said: “As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.

NEHEMIAH **5:7-8**

AND RISE UP
AND BUILD

DON'T BUILD WITH *CLOSED* HANDS & *COMPROMISED* HEARTS

THE SULTANA
1865
SULTANA


GOD'S WORK REQUIRES
MORE THAN REBUILT WALLS—
IT REQUIRES A REBUILT PEOPLE.

TO REMIND US THAT:

01. OUR MONEY IS NOT OUR OWN

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"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth… he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else."

ACTS **17:24-25**

TO REMIND US THAT:

01. OUR MONEY IS NOT OUR OWN

SELFISHNESS

"WHAT'S MINE IS MINE."

TO REMIND US THAT:

01. OUR MONEY IS NOT OUR OWN

SELFISHNESS
"WHAT'S MINE IS MINE."

STEALING
"WHAT'S YOURS IS MINE."

TO REMIND US THAT:

01. OUR MONEY IS NOT OUR OWN

SELFISHNESS
"WHAT'S MINE IS MINE."

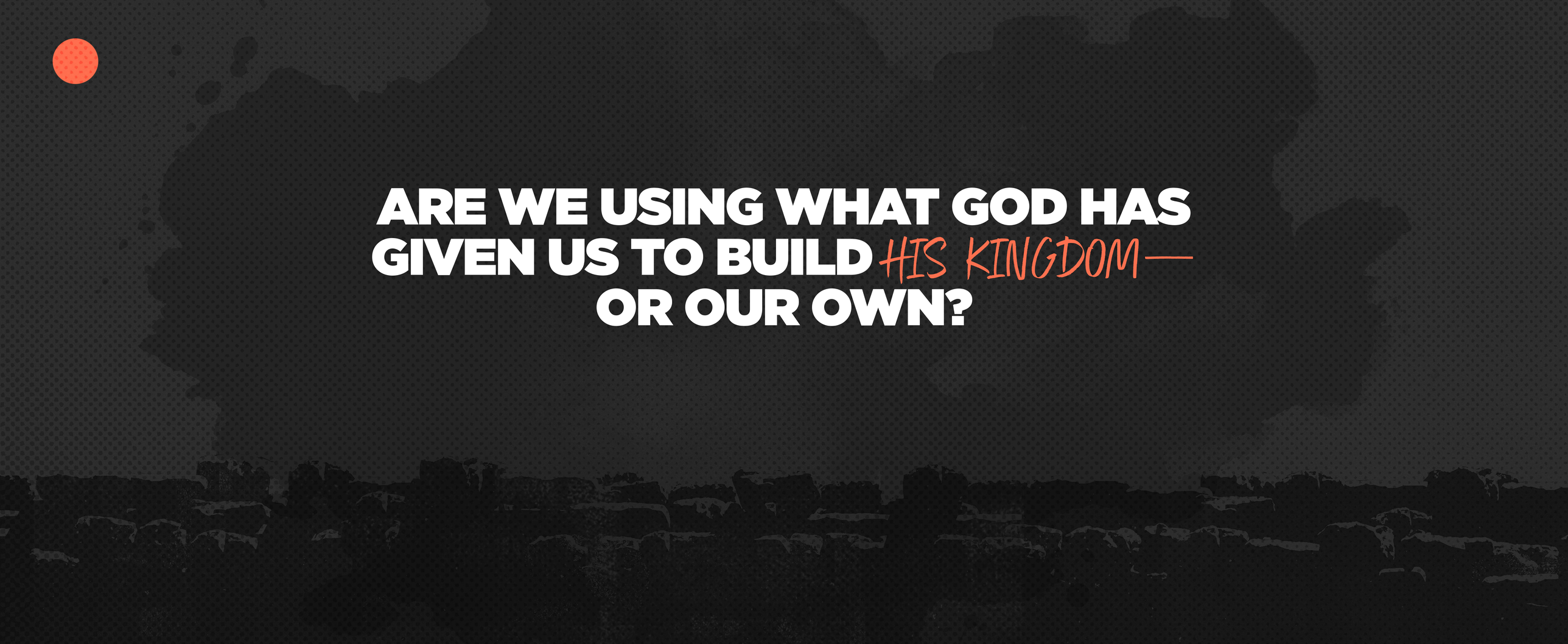
STEALING
"WHAT'S YOURS IS MINE."

STEWARDSHIP
"WHAT'S MINE IS GOD'S."

TO REMIND US THAT:

01. **OUR MONEY IS NOT OUR OWN**

02. **GOD HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY GENEROUS TO US**


ARE WE USING WHAT GOD HAS
GIVEN US TO BUILD HIS KINGDOM—
OR OUR OWN?

When I heard their outcry and these charges, **I was very angry**. I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, “You are charging your own people interest!” So I called together a large meeting to deal with them and said:

NEHEMIAH **5:6-7**

“As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.

NEHEMIAH **5:8**

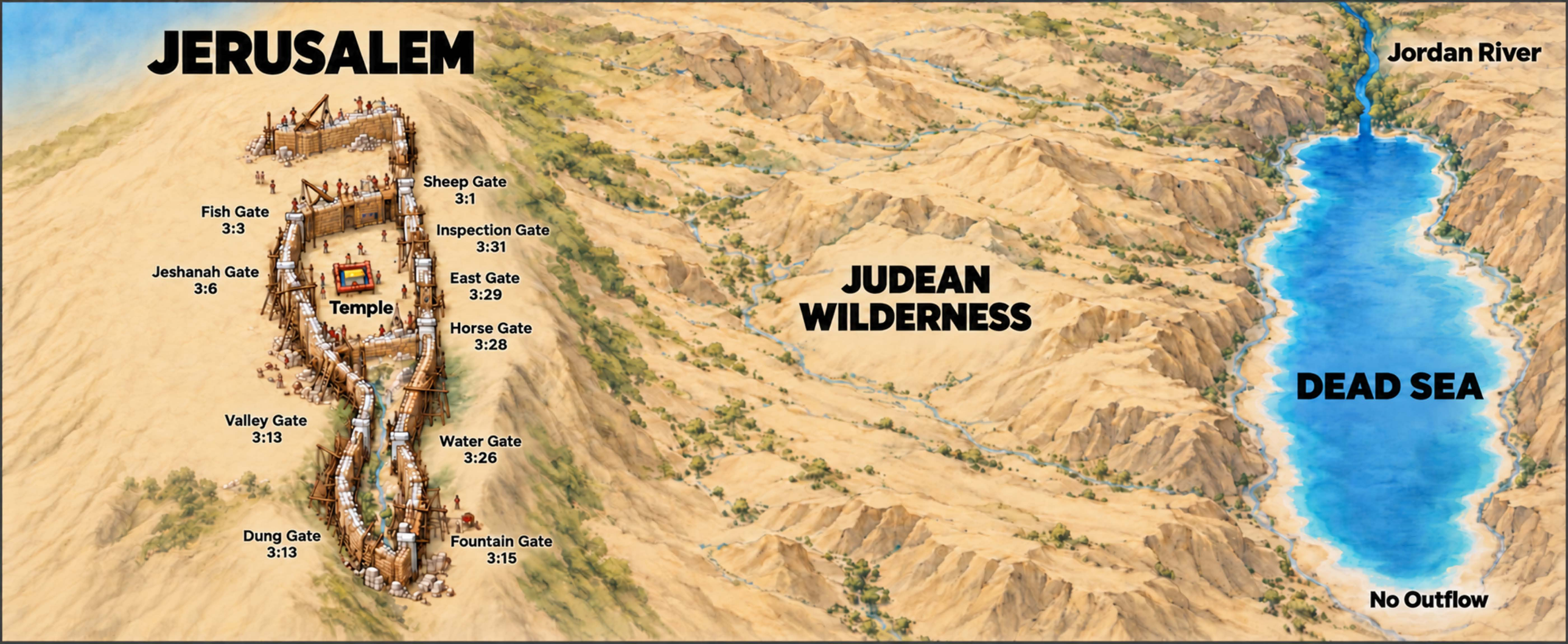
So I continued, “What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies? I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging interest!”

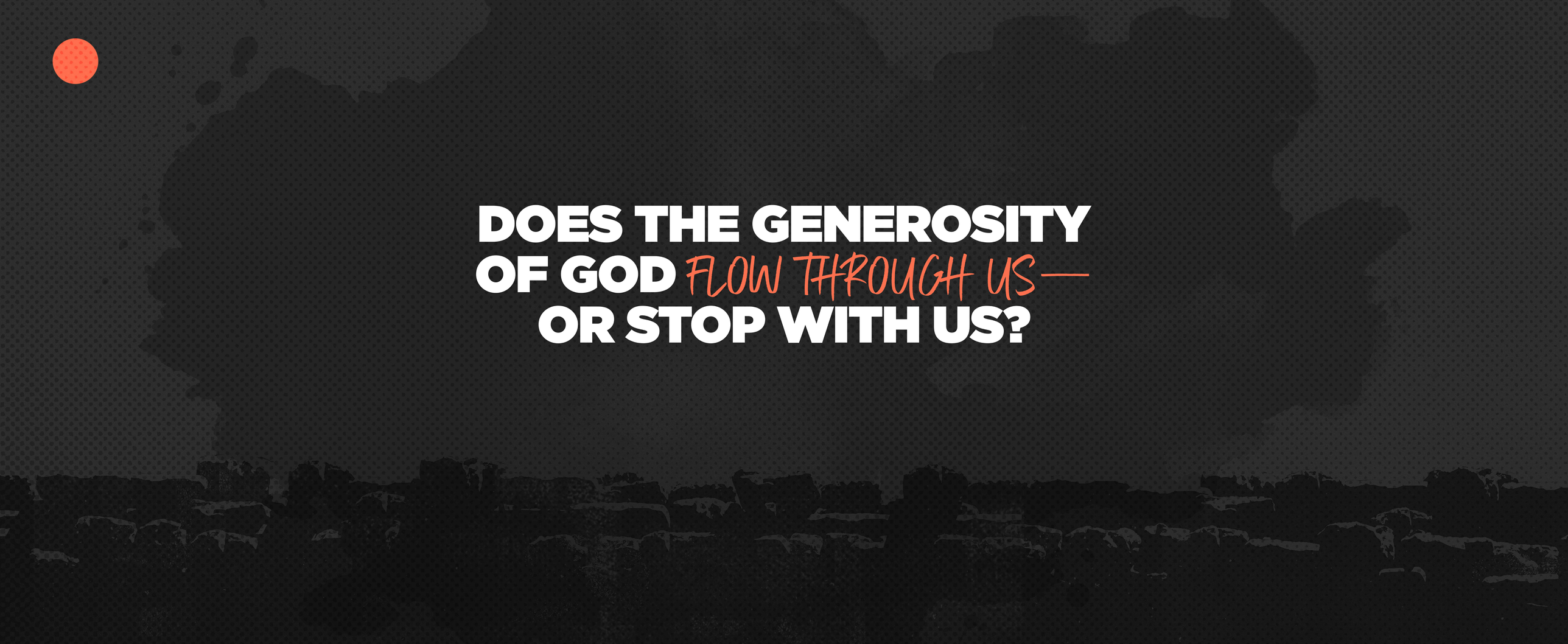
NEHEMIAH **5:9-10**

“Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the interest you are charging them—one percent of the money, grain, new wine and olive oil.”

NEHEMIAH **5:11**

BUILD
YOUR LIFE
WITH OPEN
HANDS


JERUSALEM
Sheep Gate
3:1
Fish Gate
3:3
Inspection Gate
3:31
Jeshanah Gate
3:6
East Gate
3:29
Temple
Horse Gate
3:28
Valley Gate
3:13
Water Gate
3:26
Dung Gate
3:13
Fountain Gate
3:15
JUDEAN
WILDERNESS
Jordan River
DEAD SEA
No Outflow


DOES THE GENEROSITY
OF GOD FLOW THROUGH US—
OR STOP WITH US?

KINGDOM
GENEROSITY IS
CONTAGIOUS

“We will give it back,” they said.
“And we will not demand anything more
from them. We will do as you say.”

NEHEMIAH **5:12**

Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised. I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, “In this way may God shake out of their house and possessions anyone who does not keep this promise. So may such a person be shaken out and emptied!”

NEHEMIAH **5:12-13**

At this the whole assembly said, “Amen,” and
praised the Lord.
And the people did as they had promised.

NEHEMIAH **5:13**

And whenever the living creatures give **glory** and **honor** and **thanks** to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever.

REVELATION **4:9-10**

They **cast their crowns before the throne**,
saying,

"**Worthy** are you, our Lord and God,
to receive **glory** and **honor** and **power**,
for you created all things, and by your will
they existed and were created."

REVELATION **4:10-11**