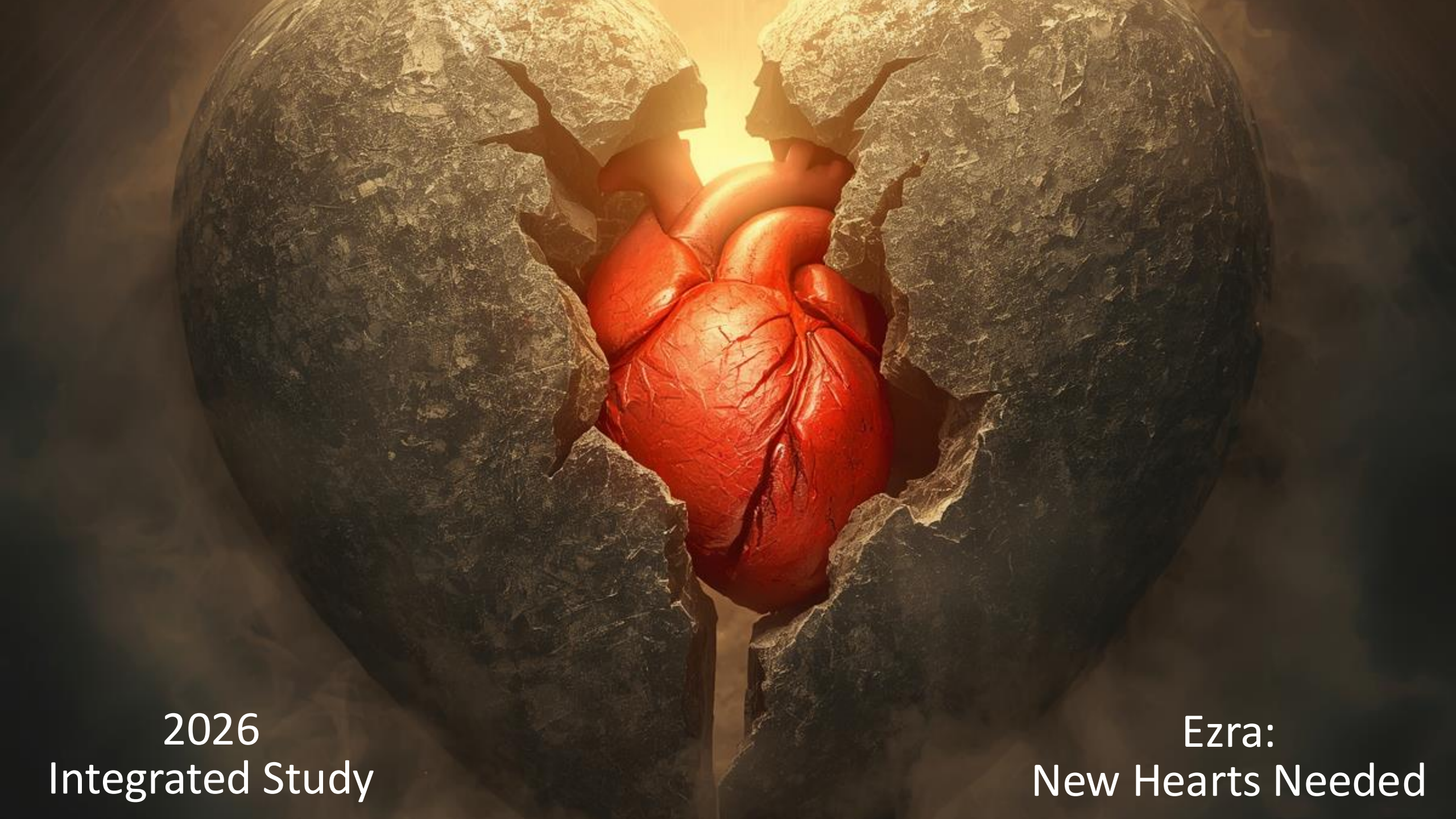




2026
Integrated Study

Ezra:
New Hearts Needed

REFOCUSED

(from external to internal temple)

Ezra 7

TIMELINE *(approximate dates)*

- 722 BC *Assyrian exile* (Various)
 - 586 BC *Babylonian exile for approx 70 years* (Nebuchadnezzar)
 - 539 BC *Persia (Cyrus) defeats Babylon* (Nabonidus)
 - Persian kings: *Cyrus (559-530); Cambyses (530-522); Darius (522-486); Xerxes (486-465); Artaxerxes (465-424)*
 - 536 BC *50,000 return under Zerubbabel* (Cyrus)
 - 516 BC *Temple complete* (Darius)
 - 458 BC *Ezra returns with 1,500 men plus families* (Artaxerxes1)
 - 445 BC *Nehemiah with over 42,000 to rebuild walls* (Artaxerxes1)
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EZRA 7

- ❑ *Leaders: Zerubbabel (1-6) ⁶⁻⁰ & Ezra (7-10) ¹³⁻⁰*
 - ❑ Temple complete, nothing to hold together
 - ❑ After approximately 60 years...
 - ❑ God chooses a man (1-10)
 - ❑ God controls a king (11-20)
 - ❑ God conserves His Word (21-26)
 - ❑ Ezra's worshipful response (27-28)
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HERE COMES THE MAN: EZRA

1. Heritage: Sovereign foundations
2. Selected: “hand of the LORD was on him” (6, 9, 28)
3. Gifted: teacher (6); teaching (10)
4. Lifestyle “well versed in the Law of Moses” (6)
5. Refocused from building buildings to building people

“Now Ezra had determined in his heart to study the law of the LORD, obey it, and teach its statutes and ordinances in Israel.” (7:10)



**What it
means for
me....**

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*Six applications***

1. FOCUSED LEADERSHIP

- ❖ We don't need religious entrepreneurs!
 - ❖ Leaders that help people to connect to God
 - ✓ *Initially – evangelism*
 - ✓ *Ongoing – discipleship*
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2. SOVEREIGN FOUNDATIONS

**I KNOW I'M
SOMEBODY**



**'cause God don't
make no junk!!**

3. DEVOTED *Committed...*

- Devoted/focused/refocused
 - Commitment to:
 - ✓ *Study*
 - ✓ *Live*
 - ✓ *Teach*
-

4. STUDY THE WORD *Inform...* (SPACEPETS)

- Sin to confess
 - Promise to claim
 - Attitude to change
 - Command to obey
 - Example to follow
 - Prayer to pray
 - Error to avoid
 - Truth to believe
 - Something to praise God for
-

5. OBEY THE WORD *Transform...*

- Love's response (Ephesians 5:10, 17)
 - Call to live the impossible life (*on our own*)
 - Are you willing to change?
 - If not, are you willing to be made willing?
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6. SHARE THE WORD *Inreach & Outreach...*

- Helping others connect with God
 - Walk, and,
 - Talk
 - Choose to be different (*conformed to culture or transformed to Christ-likeness?*)
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APPLICATION SUMMARY...

1. Focused leadership
 2. Sovereign foundations
 3. Focused/devoted/committed
 4. Study the Word
 5. Obey the Word
 6. Share the Word
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