

# Building for God

Pembroke Bible Chapel  
D Axford – Apr 19, 2009  
Series No. DA-EZRA-03

## Opposed by Adversaries Ezra 4

This chapter is a summary of the opposition to rebuilding the temple and city of Jerusalem over a period of about 95 years.

### **I. COMPROMISE (verses 1-3; BC 538-536)**

The local inhabitants asked to help in the work claiming to be followers of Zerubbabel's God while in fact they were enemies. This help was refused. (*2 Ki.17:24*)

### **II. CONFLICT (verses 4-5, 24; BC 536-520)**

As a result of this refusal, these enemies harassed the workers such that the work stopped for 16 years. Their tactics included discouragement and fear, and the hiring of counselors to frustrate them.

### **III. COMPLAINT (verse 6; BC 486-458)**

Apparently not much work was done on rebuilding the city during the reign of king Ahasuerus due to accusations made to him by unnamed people.

### **IV. CONDEMNATION (verses 7-23; BC ~456-445)**

During the reign of Artaxerxes, the Samaritan rulers accused the Jews of damaging the king's finances, reputation, and territory. As a result work was forcibly stopped until the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the king. (*Neh.2:1-10*).

(over)

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## **Application**

### **Forms of Opposition**

#### **1. Compromise**

With non Christians who claim to know God  
With apostate Christians

#### **2. Conflict**

Discouragement, fear, and frustration  
Prepare for spiritual warfare (Eph.6)

#### **3. Complaint**

At present – tribunals for opponents to act

#### **4. Condemnation**

Government control of Christian churches  
Physical force against conscientious objectors