

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 20th year of the king. (*Neh.2:1-10*).

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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