

Opposition to the Rebuilding - Ezra 4:1-5

Topics: Determination, Differences, Discouragement, Enemies, Fear, Help, Integrity, Involvement, Judging Others, Neighbor, Obedience, Opposition, Restoration, Testing, Unbelievers

Open It

- * 1. What comes to your mind as an example of an offer that seemed “too good to be true”?
- 2. When have you distrusted an offer of help or favor?

Explore It

- 3. For whom did Israel build the temple? (4:1)
- 4. What did the enemies of Israel hear? (4:1)
- 5. What is the setting of this story? (4:1-2)
- 6. What did Israel’s enemies do when they heard about the rebuilding of the temple? (4:1-2)
- * 7. Why did Israel’s enemies say they wanted to help build the temple? (4:2)
- 8. How did Israel’s enemies try to prove that they worshiped the Lord? (4:2)
- 9. How did the Israelite family heads respond to their enemies’ offer? (4:3)
- * 10. Why did Israel not want help in rebuilding the temple? (4:3)
- 11. What did Israel’s enemies do when Israel refused their help? (4:4)
- * 12. How did the enemies of Israel attempt to discourage the rebuilding of the temple? (4:4-5)
- 13. Why were counselors hired? (4:5)
- 14. How long did Israel’s enemies try to discourage them from their task? (4:5)

Get It

- 15. Why did Israel refuse their neighbors’ help?
- 16. What was wrong with Israel’s neighbors’ worship of the God of Israel?
- 17. Why is exclusive worship of God so important?
- 18. What tools do you think Satan uses against Christians?
- 19. When are you most vulnerable to temptation?
- 20. What tools can Christians use to guard themselves from sin?
- * 21. What distracts you from exclusively seeking and serving God alone?
- 22. Why was it important for Israel to rebuild the temple by themselves?
- 23. In what ways can faith be both personal and part of a group?
- 24. In what ways has your faith ever come under attack, been tested, or opposed?
- 25. What opposition have you experienced in your Christian walk?
- * 26. How does God want us to deal with long-term opposition from unbelievers?

Apply It

- * 27. What concrete action could you take over the next few weeks to protect yourself from discouragement or fear?
- 28. What specific steps can you take to insure you will not be distracted from serving the Lord?