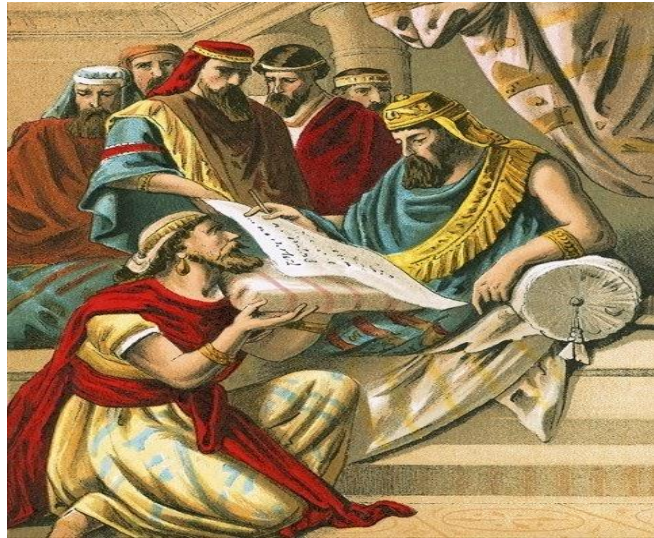


April: 26

## Opposition in rebuilding the Temple

Scripture to read: Ezra 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter

During the time when the foundation was laid at the leadership of Zerubbabel, the gentiles around Israel approached Zerubbabel and the other leaders and said, "Let us build with you, for we worship your God just as you do. But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the other leaders of Israel replied, "You may have no part in this work. The gentiles, who were enraged by this, not only hindered the work but also wrote a letter to King Xerxes of Persia. This is a copy of their letter: "The king should know that the Jews who came here to Jerusalem from Babylon are rebuilding this rebellious and evil city. They have already laid the foundation and will soon finish its walls. If this city is rebuilt and its walls are completed, it will be much to your disadvantage, for the Jews will then refuse to pay their tribute, customs, and tolls to you. Then King Artaxerxes sent this reply: I ordered a search of the records and have found that Jerusalem has indeed been a hotbed of insurrection against many kings. In fact, rebellion and revolt are normal there! Therefore issue orders to have these men stop their work. That city must not be rebuilt except at my express command.



Beloved Children, who were the people that surround the nation of Judah? Most of the people who were called as Samaritans did not belong to the tribe of Judah, they were Gentiles. These people were settled through the King of Assyria and belonged to that nation. That is the reason Zerubbabel and his friends refused to join these people who did not worship the true and living God. Next, they did not truly come with an intension to help them. If they could have come with an intension to help they would have not opposed the work rather they would have desired that somehow, the temple should be rebuilt. Next they also falsely told the King that the exiles are rebuilding the city. Children, the devil opposed the work through these Samaritans with fear that, if the temple is rebuild a group of true worshipers will rise to worship the Lord God. When the Good work of the Lord is under process, it pleases God to have people like Zerubbabel who are saved as a help for his work. We should not be troubled and be dismayed when opposition strikes us but rather we should pray and keep trying in whatever we have laid our hand upon.

**You see his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. James 2:22**

### Prayer

Living God who is the same yesterday, today now and forever, we praise you. To you alone belongs glory and honor. We will not trust in any human for anything but in everything, we will put our trust in you. Amen

