

ADVERSARIES OF ISRAEL'S WORK
(Ezra 4:1-24)

- I. Initial Offer of _____ (Ezra 4:1-3)
- A. _____ the offer of assistance (4:1-2)
1. Offered by “the _____ of Judah and Benjamin”
 2. Probably the _____, practicing a _____ worship
 3. A _____ presentation to the Jewish _____
 4. Claimed _____ to “seek _____”
- B. _____ the offer of assistance (4:3)
1. A _____ decision of the _____
 2. Explained their _____ to do the building
 3. Stated their _____ to do the building
 4. Maintained the _____ of the work
- II. Resultant Efforts at _____ (Ezra 4:4-24)
- A. Account of _____ to the work from the reign of Cyrus to Darius [534 – 522 BC] (4:4-5)
1. In general, they _____ and _____ the workers
 2. Specifically, they “_____ against them”
- B. Parenthetical description of _____ to the work during reigns of Ahasuerus [486 – 465 BC] and Artaxerxes [465 -425 BC] (4:6-23)
1. Says they wrote _____ against the Judeans
 2. Cites a specific _____ to Artaxerxes

- a. Written in _____
- b. Introduction implies unanimous support of the entire provincial _____ and _____
- c. Identifies the writers as the _____ faced by Zerubbabel
- d. Slandered Jerusalem as “ _____ and _____ ”
- e. Accused them of doing more _____ than the king’s charter _____
- f. Said this threatened the imperial _____
- g. Implied this would bring _____ to the king
- h. Predicted the king would _____ beyond the Euphrates

3. Quotes the _____ from Artaxerxes

- a. Indicates the records _____ their contention
- b. Charged them to _____ the _____ until the king might say otherwise
- c. Made them responsible for any _____ to himself

4. Stopped the work by threatening _____

C. Record of _____ of the work until the second year of _____ [521 BC] (4:24)

III. Lessons

- A. God’s _____ will be _____ (cf. 2 Tim. 3:12)
- B. Persistent opposition can cause God’s people to grow _____ and to _____ (cf. Gal. 6:9; 2 Thess. 3:13)
- C. _____ with enemies of the _____ must be steadfastly _____