

The Book of Ezra
Study #8
(Ezra 4:1-5, 24)
Opposition: Part I

**I. THE COMMENCEMENT
OF THE OPPOSITION (1)**

We have been warned by ...

Paul (2 Timothy 3:12)

Peter (1 Peter 4:12)

John (1 John 3:13)

Jesus (John 15:18-19)

QUOTE: Satan has no demons assigned to stagnant churches!

**II. THE CHARACTERISTICS
OF THE OPPOSITION (2-5)**

A. COMPROMISE (2-3)

1. Their Offer Rendered (2)

- a. **An Offer of Construction (2A)**
- b. **An Offer of Comparison (2B; 2 Kings 17:24)**

2. Their Offer Refused (3)

- a. **The Authority for Their Refusal - Persian King**
- b. **The Object of Their Refusal - Pure Religion (Jn. 4:22; 2 Cor. 6:14)**
- c. **The Outcome of Their Refusal - Persecution**

B. CONFRONTATION (4-5)

- 1. Local Opposition (4)**
- 2. Legal Opposition (5)**

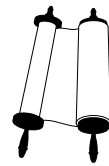
**III. THE CONSEQUENCES
OF THE OPPOSITION (24; Haggai 1:2-6)**

- **Judas** gave up. He didn't have real faith to begin with.
- **John Mark** gave up for a while. He had an unrealistic picture of the ministry.
- **Peter** gave up for a while. His faith was too small to survive persecution.
- **Jesus** was obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

CONCLUSION: (Pr. 24:10; 2 Tim. 1:6-8)

EZRA: OUTLINE

- I. Rebuilding the Place of God (Chapters 1-6)
 (The Ministry of Zerubbabel)
 - A. The Return (Chapters 1-2)
 - 1. Proclamation of the Departure (1:1-4)
 - 2. Provision for the Departure (1:5-11)
 - 3. People of the Departure (Chapter 2)
 - B. The Rebuilding (Chapters 3-6)
 - 1. The Restoration of Worship (3:1-7)
 - 2. The Rebuilding of the Temple (3:8-6:22)
 - a. Commenced (3:8-13)
 - b. Contested (4:1-6:12)
 - 1) The Opposition (Ch. 4)
 - a) The 1st Opposition (4:1-5,24)
 - b) The 2nd Opposition (4:6-23)



Ancestors of the Samaritans

The enemies of Judah and Benjamin refer to the people living in Palestine since the time of the fall of the Northern Kingdom in 722 B.C. The Assyrian Empire, which conquered the 10 Northern tribes, deported some of the people away to Assyria and brought in other peoples to intermarry (2 Kings 17:23-24). This tactic prevented strong nationalistic uprisings in the conquered lands.

The "enemies" (called "the peoples around them," Ezra 4:4) were the descendants of these mixed peoples and the forefathers of the New Testament Samaritans.

Esarhaddon, king of Assyria, who brought us here, was the Assyrian monarch who aggressively pursued the policy of partial deportation and to whose reign these enemies could trace their ancestry in Palestine. Esarhaddon, a son of Sennacherib, ruled from 681 to 669 B.C. (*Bible Knowledge Commentary*)

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4:1 **adversaries** - From the same root as the word for a "pebble." As a pebble in one's shoe hinders walking, and eventually stops it, so these adversaries work to hinder the progress on the temple.

4:4 **troubled** - To harass, terrify.

4:5 **frustrate** - To cause to disappear, to cause to be clean gone, to bring to naught.