

Ezra 4:1, 4-5, 21-24 (NLT)

4:1 The **enemies** of Judah and Benjamin heard that the exiles were rebuilding a Temple to the LORD, the God of Israel...

⁴ Then the local residents tried to **discourage** and **frighten** the people of Judah to keep them from their work. ⁵ They bribed agents to **work against** them and to frustrate their plans...

²¹ ...Therefore, issue orders to have these men **stop their work**. That city must not be rebuilt except at my express command...

²³ When this letter from King Artaxerxes was read to Rehum, Shimshai, and their colleagues, they hurried to Jerusalem. Then, with a show of strength, **they forced the Jews to stop building.**

²⁴ So the **work on the Temple of God**
in Jerusalem had **STOPPED...**

Serious OPPOSITION

Ezra 4-5

Israel's Enemies tried to...

- **Discourage** them
- **Frighten** them
- **Challenge** them Politically
- **Frustrate** their plans

Hebrews 10:21–25 (NLT)

²¹ And since we have a **Great High Priest** who rules over God's house, ²² let us go **right into the presence of God** with **sincere hearts fully trusting Him...**

²² ...For our guilty consciences have been **sprinkled with Christ's Blood** to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

²³ Let us **hold tightly** without wavering **to the hope** we affirm, for **God can be trusted** to keep **His promise**. ²⁴ Let us **think of ways to motivate one another** to acts of **Love and Good Works**.

25 And let us **not neglect our meeting together,**
as some people do, but **encourage**
one another, especially now that the
day of **His return** is drawing near.

WHEN we are Discouraged...

- **REFUSE** to Give up
- Draw **NEAR**
- Hold on to **HOPE**
- Remember **God is FAITHFUL**
- **SEEK** to Encourage and Help
- **INTENTIONALLY** Seek those who are Hurting

The Commands Darius Gave...

- stay **AWAY** from them
- do **NOT** Interfere
- let them **REBUILD**
- **PAY** their Expenses
- Provide whatever is **NEEDED** for Sacrifices
- Do this with **DILIGENCE**

5:4 They also **Asked** for the **NAMES**
of **All** the men working on the Temple.

⁵ **BUT** because **their God was watching over** them, the leaders of the Jews were **not prevented from building** until a Report was sent to Darius and he returned his decision. (NLT)

Their God was...

- **Personal** He belonged to them and they belonged to Him
- **Protecting** them **Preventing** any Interference of stoppage of work on the Temple
- **Preventing** any Interference of stoppage of work on the Temple

6:8 ...**The expenses** of these men are to be
fully paid out of the royal treasury,
FROM the revenues of **Trans-Euphrates**

Philippians 4:8 (NLT)

...**Fix your thoughts** on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. **Think about** things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Hebrews 12:2-3 (NIV)

Let us **Fix our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ **Consider Him** who endured such opposition from sinful men, **SO THAT** you will **not grow weary** and **lose heart**.

Colossians 3:2–3 (CSB)

Set your minds on things above,
NOT on earthly things. ³ For **you died**,
and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV)

You will **seek Me** and **FIND Me**,
WHEN
you **seek Me** with **ALL** your heart.