

**05 - Ezra 4:1-5 – Surrounded by enemies**

... if we all just got along together.

**Why reject the offer of help?**

... people who have been relocated to the land by the previous ruling Assyrian nation.

**2 Kings 17:24-41**

God revealed himself to this new bunch of people when they were relocated by the Assyrians

... **BUT they simply worshipped YHWH AND all their other gods.**

**2 Kings 17:41**, “Even while these people were worshipping the Lord, they were serving their idols. To this day their children and grandchildren continue to do as their ancestors did.”

**Ezra 4:2**, ‘Let us help you build because, like you, we seek your God and have been sacrificing to him since the time of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us here.’”

**Ezra 4:3**, ‘You have no part with us in building a temple to our God. We alone will build it for the Lord, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus, the king of Persia, commanded us.’

... **they reject any offer of help that is simply going to corrupt the right worship of YHWH.**

**God’s people standing firm**

v 4-5 ... the deliberate plans of these people to undermine the rebuild efforts.

**For us today**

1) **Focus on right worship**

... **God’s people at their best**

**not mixing the worship of YHWH with the worship of any other “god”.**

**What sort of effort do we take.. or do we pass it off pretending it could never happen to us?..**

2) **Expect opposition**

3) **Dealing with discouragement**

**Heb 10:19- 39**

**1 Peter 1 ... an eternal inheritance that can never perish spoil or fade kept in heaven**

**for us**

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**Romans 8 ...when compared to the future glory**

**Hebrews 12:1-3**, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him he 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 sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

**How are we going to prepare NOW to deal with the discouragement that will come as we seek to follow Jesus?**

**1 Peter 5:8**, “Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.”