

1. Opposition begins

- a) Ezra 4:1-5 Why do you think the Jewish exiles who returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel refused the assistance of neighboring tribes to rebuild the Temple?
- b) What clues in this passage confirm their decision was the right one?
- c) Think of other times Satan tried to use deception to undermine God's plan for the human family.
- d) What was intention of Tattenai, the governor of the region beyond the Euphrates, when he sent a letter to King Darius? Ezra 5:8-17
- e) What warning to King Darius include when he responded to Tattenai's letter? Ezra 6:11-12
- f) What lesson can we learn from these experiences when we face opposition?

2. Encouragement from prophets of God

- a) Ezra 5:1-2 Why was the arrival of Haggai and Zechariah such an encouragement to Zerubbabel?
- b) What specific message from God did Haggai deliver to Zerubbabel? Haggai 1:1-11
- c) How did Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the remnant of the Jewish exiles respond? Haggai 1:12-15
- d) Share a time when the LORD sent you a message of reproof or encouragement through the writings of one of His prophets.

3. Opposition during the time of Nehemiah 444 BC

- a) What lessons can we learn from the way Nehemiah responded to those who opposed his work? Nehemiah 4:1-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9,
- b) What internal opposition did the returned exiles experience from their own countrymen? Nehemiah 4:12
- c) How did Nehemiah respond to opposition from without and within? Nehemiah 4:13-18, 19-23
- d) Share a time when you experienced intense opposition as you sought to faithfully fulfill the mission assignment given to you by Jesus.

4. Accomplishing a great work

- a) Nehemiah 6:1-16 How was it possible for Nehemiah and his team to accomplish such a "great work" in 52 days?
- b) Name some other Bible characters through whom God was able to accomplish a "great work" because of their willingness to obey His word.
- c) The great work given to us by Jesus is impossible from a human perspective. There is intense external and internal opposition. How is it possible for God to accomplish a great work in us and through us?

