

Ezra 4:1-2 (NLT)

The enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the exiles were rebuilding a Temple to the Lord, the God of Israel. [2] So they approached Zerubbabel and the other leaders and said, “Let us build with you, for we worship your God just as you do. We have sacrificed to him ever since King Esarhaddon of Assyria brought us here.”

Ezra 4:3-4 (NLT)

But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the other leaders of Israel replied, “You may have no part in this work. We alone will build the Temple for the Lord, the God of Israel, just as King Cyrus of Persia commanded us.” [4] Then the local residents tried to discourage and frighten the people of Judah to keep them from their work.

Ezra 4:5, 24 (NLT)

They bribed agents to work against them and to frustrate their plans. This went on during the entire reign of King Cyrus of Persia and lasted until King Darius of Persia took the throne. ... [24] So the work on the Temple of God in Jerusalem had stopped, and it remained at a standstill until the second year of the reign of King Darius of Persia.

Haggai 1:2-4 (NLT)

This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: The people are saying, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.'” [3] Then the Lord sent this message through the prophet Haggai: [4] “Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins?

Haggai 1:5-6 (NLT)

This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! [6] You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes!

Haggai 1:9 (NLT)

...[9] You hoped for rich harvests, but they were poor. And when you brought your harvest home, I blew it away. Why? Because my house lies in ruins, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, while all of you are busy building your own fine houses.

OVERCOMING OPOSITION

Ezra 4:1 - 6:12



Israel's Enemies Tried to... vs. 4

- **Discourage them**
- **Make them Fearful**
- **Challenge them Politically**
- **Frustrate their Plans**

Hebrews 10:21-23 (NIV)

...since we have a great priest over the house of God, [22] let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. [23] Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. [25] Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

When You are Discouraged...

- **Refuse to Give up**
- **Draw Near To God**
- **Remember God's Faithfulness**
- **Intentionally Reach out to and Encourage Others**
- **Seek Encouragement and Strength from Others**

Decree by Darius...

- **Stay Away From them**
- **Do NOT Interfere**
- **Let them Rebuild**
- **Pay their Expenses**
- **Provide whatever is needed for Sacrifices**
- **Do it with Diligence**

**→ So that they would
PRAY
for the WELFARE
of the King**

Warning and a Curse...

- **Impale Anyone who tries to stop the construction on a Pole**
- **Destroy their Home**
- **May God Curse Anyone who Tries to Destroy the Temple**

Haggai 1:2-4 (NLT)

**...The people are saying, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.’” [3] Then the Lord sent this message through the prophet Haggai:
[4] “Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins?**

Matthew 6:28-29 (NLT)

And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, [29] yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are.

Matthew 6:30-31 (NLT)

And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? [31] “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’

Matthew 6:32-33 (NLT)

These things **DOMINATE
the thoughts of unbelievers,
but your heavenly Father already knows
all your needs. [33] Seek the Kingdom
of God **ABOVE** all else, and live
righteously, and he will give you
everything you need.**

LORD, I GIVE YOU MY HEART (1/2)

This is my desire: to honor You.

Lord with all my heart

I worship You.

All I have within me,

I give You praise.

All that I adore is in You.

LORD, I GIVE YOU MY HEART (2/2)

**Lord I give You my heart,
I give you my soul,
I live for You alone.**

**Every breath that I take,
Every moment I'm awake,
Lord have Your way in me.**

LORD, I GIVE YOU MY HEART (1/2)

This is my desire: to honor You.

Lord with all my heart

I worship You.

All I have within me,

I give You praise.

All that I adore is in You.

LORD, I GIVE YOU MY HEART (2/2)

**Lord I give You my heart,
I give you my soul,
I live for You alone.**

**Every breath that I take,
Every moment I'm awake,
Lord have Your way in me.**