

Ezra – Nehemiah Bible Study Series: Ezra Chapters 4 & 5

Sunday, April 17 and Wednesday, April 20

References: Ezra Chapters 4 – 5; 2 Kings 17: 24 – 41; 2 John 9 – 11; Galatians 1: 6 – 9; Haggai 1: 1 – 11; Zechariah 3: 6 – 10

- Who heard about the work on the temple, and what did they offer to do? (Ezra 4: 1 – 2)
- According to 2 Kings 17: 24 – 41, how had these people come to Samaria? How is their worship described?
- How did Zerubbabel and Jeshua respond to their request? (Ezra 4: 3) Explain why they responded this way, based on what we know about the Samaritans.
- How did the Samaritans respond to this rejection of their request? (Ezra 4: 4 – 6)
- Which Persian kings are mentioned in Ezra 4: 6 – 7 and Ezra 4: 24? How do these references represent a challenge to our understanding of the timeline of the Persian kings who reigned throughout this period?
- What accusations did the Samaritans make against the Jews in their letter, and what proof did they offer? What did the king command in response to the letter? (Ezra 4: 11 – 22)
- How did the Samaritans respond to the king's letter, and how long did the work on the temple cease? (Ezra 4: 23 – 24)
- What prophets spoke to the Jews about their work on the temple? (Ezra 5: 1)
- According to the prophet Haggai, why had the work on the temple stopped, and what had the people been doing instead? (Haggai 1: 1 – 11)
- From Zechariah 3: 6 – 10, how would you characterize this prophecy? How does Zechariah's approach in prophesy differ from that of Haggai's?
- What was the result of Haggai and Zechariah's prophecies, and who led the people back to work? (Ezra 5: 1 – 2)
- Characterize the letter that Tattenai sent to the Persian king regarding the work on the temple. What was his purpose in looking into the matter, and what was the result? (Ezra 5: 3 – 17)