

# Standing Firm in the Face of Opposition

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August 25, 2024 | *Ezra 4:6-16*



## Observations from Ezra 4:6-16

What is happening in these verses?

**The Adversaries wrote an accusation against the people of God: (Ezra 4:6):**

**The specific people who wrote against the people of God: (Ezra 4:7-10):**

Out of the list we see someone from before: Mithredath:

- Once *for* the people of God (Ezra 1:8)
- Now *against* the people of God: (Ezra 4:7)

**The letter to King Artaxerxes: (Ezra 4:11-16):**

- ◆ *What specifically did the adversaries say to the king?*
- The people of God are rebuilding the rebellious and wicked city (v12)
- If this city is rebuilt, the people of God will not pay their fair share. (v13)
- Because the adversaries benefit from the king, they wanted the king to know (v14)
- Search your records and you will find how bad things were (v15)
- If the people of God finish the city, you won't have any power (v16)

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Ontario Community Church: **Encouraging, Equipping and Engaging lives for Christ.**

John 6:47 (ESV) "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever **believes** has eternal life"

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## Lessons from Ezra 4:6-16

What can we learn (interpret) from these verses?

### **The Power of Influence in Opposition**

- Words and influence can be powerful tools for both good and evil.
- **Reference Verses:** *Proverbs 18:21, James 3:5, Proverbs 16:28, Matthew 12:36-37*

### **Facing Unfair Accusations**

- As believers, we may face unjust accusations, but we must remain true to God's Word and maintain our integrity.
- **Reference Verses:** *1 Peter 3:16, Psalm 31:18, Romans 12:17-19, Isaiah 54:17*

### **Human Interference in God's Work**

- Despite human efforts to interfere with God's plans, His purposes will ultimately prevail.
- **Reference Verses:** *Acts 5:29, Isaiah 40:8, Psalm 2:1-4, Isaiah 14:27*

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## Application from Ezra 4:6-16

How can I apply / live out these verses?

### **Consider Your Words and Influence**

- Use your words and influence to build up others and glorify God.
- **Reference Verses:** *Ephesians 4:29, Colossians 4:6, Proverbs 12:18, Matthew 5:16*

### **Respond to Unfair Accusations with Grace and Truth**

- When facing unjust treatment, respond with integrity and trust in God's justice.
- **Reference Verses:** *Romans 12:17-21, Matthew 5:44, 1 Peter 2:23, Proverbs 15:1*

### **Navigate Political Interference with Wisdom**

- Stand firm in faith against pressure from authorities while maintaining respect and wisdom.
- **Reference Verses:** *1 Timothy 2:1-2, Titus 3:1-2, Matthew 22:21, Daniel 6:10*

### **Trust God During Times of Delay**

- Remain patient and trust in God's timing, even when facing setbacks or obstacles.
- **Reference Verses:** *Isaiah 40:31, Psalm 27:14, Romans 8:28, Habakkuk 2:3*

### **Encourage One Another in Times of Trial**

- Let us support and uplift fellow believers during challenging times.
- **Reference Verses:** *Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Galatians 6:2, Romans 15:1-2*

### **Persevere Through Opposition**

- Remain committed to God's work and grow in faith through trials.
- **Reference Verses:** *James 1:2-4, Galatians 6:9, Romans 5:3-5, Hebrews 12:1-2*

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