A photograph of a stone church with a steeple, set against a dramatic sunset sky. The church's windows are illuminated from within, casting a warm glow. The steeple is topped with a cross. The foreground is a field of tall grass, and the background shows rolling hills under a cloudy sky.

# In Unity and Strength:

Facing Adversity together:  
Ezra 4: 1-5



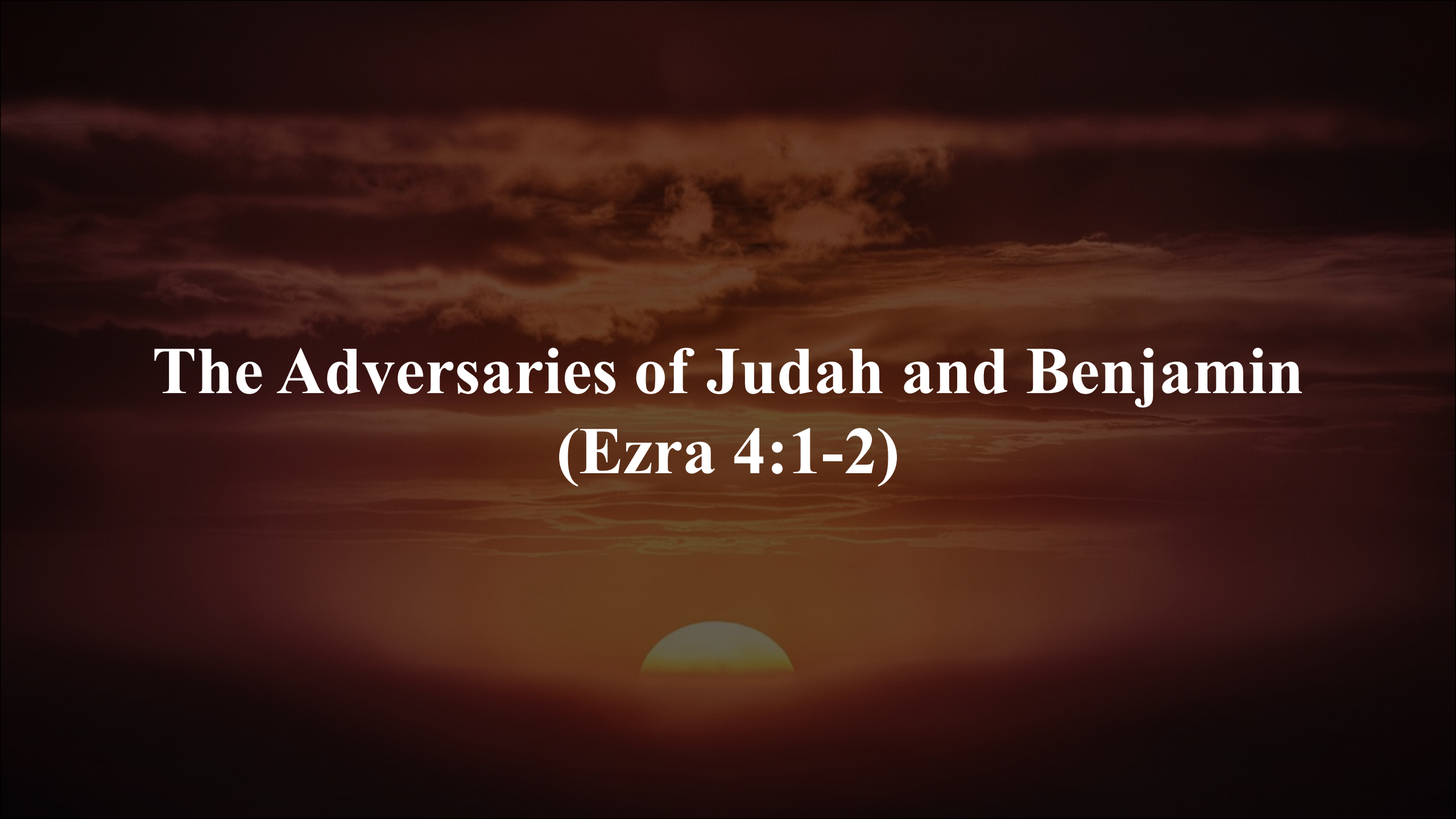


Prayer



**Observations from Ezra 4:1-5**  
*What is happening in these verses?*





**The Adversaries of Judah and Benjamin**  
**(Ezra 4:1-2)**

The background of the image is a dramatic sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, textured clouds, with a warm, golden light emanating from the horizon. The sun is partially visible as a bright, glowing semi-circle just above the dark silhouette of the horizon line. The overall color palette is dominated by deep reds, oranges, and browns, creating a somber and contemplative atmosphere.

**The Importance of Spiritual Discernment**  
**(Ezra 4:3)**





**The Adversaries' Tactics Against The People of  
God (Ezra 4:4-5)**

A sunset over a body of water with a semi-circle of light on the horizon.

**Lessons from Ezra 4:1-5**

*What can we learn (interpret) from these verses?*



# The Importance of Developing Our Spiritual Discernment

Spiritual discernment helps us recognize good and evil; truth from lies; light and darkness.

*Scripture References: 1 John 4:1, Matthew 7:15, Hebrews 5:14*



# How do we develop our spiritual discernment?

- 1. Learn the Word of God:** *2 Timothy 3:16- 17,*  
*Hebrews 5:14*
- 2. Be Guided by the Holy Spirit:** *John 16:13,*  
*Romans 8:14*

# Standing Firm in the Face of Opposition

Standing firm in our faith is critical when facing opposition to remain true to the mission God has given us.

*Reference Verses: Matthew 28:19-20,  
2 Corinthians 5:20, Ephesians 6:13*



# Recognize the Reality of Spiritual Warfare

Spiritual warfare is a reality, and we must be equipped by knowing the tactics. Let us respond to with prayer, Scripture, trust in the Lord, and unity in the body of Christ.

*Reference Verses: Ephesians 6:10-18, 2 Timothy 4:7, 1 Peter 5:8-9*

A sunset or sunrise over a body of water with a cloudy sky. The sun is partially visible on the horizon, and the sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds. The overall color palette is warm, with shades of orange, red, and brown.

**Application from Ezra 4:1-5**

*How can I apply / live out these verses?*



# Grow in Discernment

We grow in discernment by studying God's Word, seeking wisdom from God, and praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

*Reference Verses: James 1:5, Proverbs 2:4-5, 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22*

# Support One Another in Faith

Supporting each other in faith strengthens the body of Christ (like a bundle of sticks) and helps us stand firm together against opposition.

*Reference Verses: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Hebrews 10:24-25*








# Trust in God's Sovereignty

Trusting in God's sovereignty gives us peace and confidence, knowing that He is in control and His plans for us are good.

*Reference Verses: Romans 8:28, Proverbs 3:5-6, Isaiah 41:10*



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Prayer





# Benediction