

# Divine Delays: A Season of Waiting

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September 1, 2024 | *Ezra 4:17-24*



## DIVINE DELAYS

A SEASON OF WAITING: EZRA 4:17-24

### Observations from Ezra 4:17-24

What is happening in these verses?

#### **The King's Response: (Ezra 4:17-19)**

- King Artaxerxes responds to the adversaries letter. He confirms that a search was made in the records about the history of Jerusalem.

#### **The Kings Decree to halt the work: (Ezra 4:20-22)**

- Because of the findings from the records, King Artaxerxes issues a decree to halt the rebuilding of the temple. This is to be done immediately to stop the damage.

#### **The immediate effect on the work: (Ezra 4:23-24)**

- The adversaries, once they received the orders from the king, used force and power to stop the people of God. The rebuilding of the temple was brought to a halt until the reign of Darius.

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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 4:7-24

What can we learn (interpret) from these verses?

### **The Power of Political Authority:**

- Political authority can impact God's work but is ultimately under His control.
- **Scripture References:** *Proverbs 21:1, Isaiah 14:27*

### **The Role of Patience and Faith:**

- Patience and faith are essential during delays in fulfilling God's purposes.
- **Scripture References:** *James 1:3-4, Romans 5:3-5*

### **Spiritual and Emotional Strain:**

- Delays can cause strain; they are opportunities for spiritual growth.
- **Scripture References:** *Psalms 42:5, Hebrews 10:36*

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## Application from Ezra 4:7-24

How can I apply / live out these verses?

### **Respond to Governmental Authority**

- Submit to authority while trusting in God's sovereignty.
- **Reference Verses:** *Romans 13:1-2, Daniel 2:21, Proverbs 16:9, 1 Timothy 2:1-2*

### **Persevering in the Face of Opposition**

- Persevere through opposition, showing faithfulness to God.
- **Reference Verses:** *1 Corinthians 15:58, Hebrews 10:36, Philippians 3:14, James 1:3-4*

### **Trusting in God During Periods of Delay**

- Use delays to deepen your trust in God's perfect timing.
- **Reference Verses:** *Psalms 37:7, Isaiah 40:31, Lamentations 3:25-26, Galatians 6:9*

### **Encouraging One Another in Times of Waiting**

- Support and encourage others during times of delay.
- **Reference Verses:** *Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Romans 15:4-5, Galatians 6:2*

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