



# DIVINE DELAYS

A SEASON OF WAITING: EZRA 4:17-24





PRAYER



The background of the image is a dramatic, dark landscape. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, suggesting an approaching storm or a late evening. The ground is a vast, flat, rocky plain with scattered stones and sparse, low-lying vegetation. The overall mood is somber and mysterious.

**Observations from Ezra 4:17-24**  
*What is happening in these verses?*





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

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

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

The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric landscape. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, with some lighter patches where light breaks through. The horizon is a flat, dark line. The foreground is a rocky, uneven terrain with scattered stones and sparse, low-lying vegetation. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

**Lessons from Ezra 4:17-24**

*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: Psalm 42:5, Hebrews 10:36*



The background of the image is a dark, atmospheric landscape. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, with some light breaking through near the horizon. The ground is a flat, rocky plain, possibly a desert or a high-altitude area, with scattered rocks and sparse, low-lying vegetation. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

**Application from Ezra 4:17-24**

*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*



# Trusting in God During Periods of Delay

Use delays to deepen your trust in God's perfect timing.

*Reference Verses: Psalm 37:7, Isaiah 40:31,  
Lamentations 3:25-26, Galatians 6:9*



# 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*



# Encouraging One Another in Times of Waiting

Support and encourage others during times of delay.

*Reference Verses: Hebrews 10:24-25, 1*

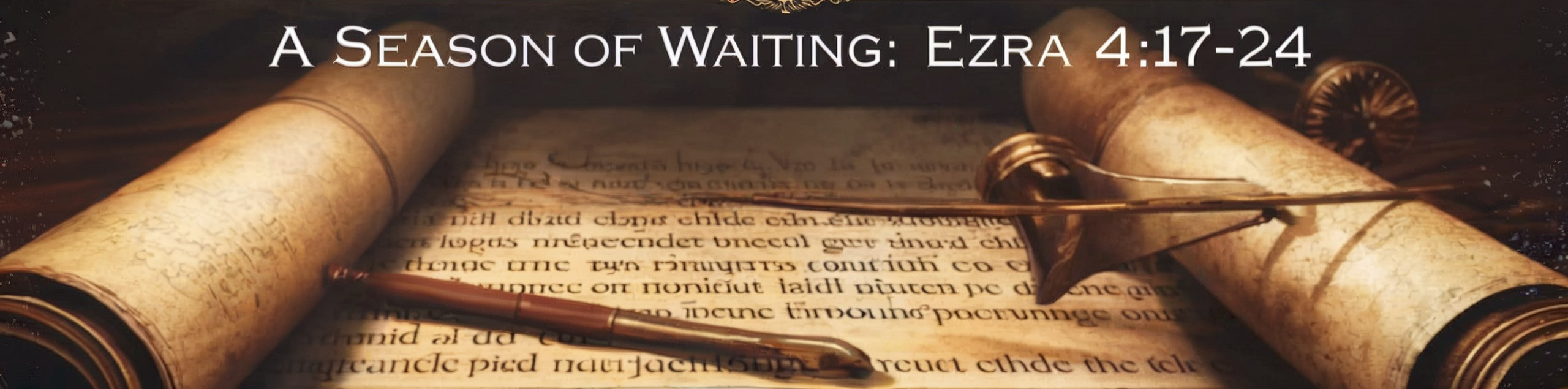
*Thessalonians 5:11, Romans 15:4-5, Galatians 6:2*





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A wide-angle landscape photograph featuring a rocky, arid foreground. The ground is covered with numerous dark, angular rocks of various sizes. In the middle ground, a flat, sandy plain extends towards a range of low, dark mountains on the horizon. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, with a bright, golden light source (the sun) positioned just above the horizon, creating a strong backlighting effect and casting long, soft shadows. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

PRAYER



A wide-angle landscape photograph capturing a sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a bright, golden glow from the sun just below the horizon. The foreground is a rocky, uneven terrain, possibly a beach or a coastal plain, with numerous dark, rounded rocks scattered across the ground. The overall mood is serene and contemplative. The word "BENEDICTION" is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# BENEDICTION