

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Wednesday, August 19, 2020
Ezra 4:1-5 and 4:24

1. What happened in Sunday's Bible Study?
 - a. They laid the foundation of the Lord's temple.
 - b. Some people celebrated this amazing step forward toward God's plan.
 - c. Other's were devastated that the temple did not live up to their memories of the past.

2. How does this chapter start in Ezra 4:1?
 - a. And God blessed their efforts and obedience.
 - b. When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin...

3. What did these enemies say in Ezra 4:2?
 - a. Alright stop what you're doing...
 - b. Let us help you...
 - c. We want to help...we have been sacrificing to your God too.

4. Where did these "enemies" come from, according to Ezra 4:2?
 - a. They must have been Israelites if they had been worshiping God.
 - b. They must have been from neighboring areas.
 - c. They were brought there as exiles from their own countries just like the Israelites were taken away to other countries.
 - d. Although 2 Kings 17:24-41 refers to a different king and the area (Samaria) north of Jerusalem, the story of these "enemies" was probably very similar.

5. Why didn't Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the rest of the family heads let these people help in Ezra 4:3?
 - a. They were enemies!
 - b. I don't know, it seems like this could have brought restoration between Judah & Benjamin and their enemies.
 - c. If you worship God and other gods, you don't worship God at all.

6. Is it possible that some who say they worship our God are actually working against us even as they say that they want to help? Yes_____ No_____ Are you one of them? _____

7. What happened when Israel's leaders did not let these people help, according to Ezra 4:4-5?
 - a. They set out to discourage the people of Judah and make them afraid to go on building.
 - b. They bribed officials to work against Israel and frustrate their plans.
 - c. When a new king came into power, they brought accusation against the people of Judah and Jerusalem.
 - d. When the next king came into power, they warned him that Israel had been rebellious and would be again if they were allowed to rebuild.

8. What was the result of all of this opposition, according to Ezra 4:24? _____

9. What do you do when you experience opposition? _____
Is it possible that the setbacks you are experiencing in your life are not the end of the story?
