

You Don't Know My Story

Ezra 4:1-3

The enemies of Judah and Benjamin, the Samaritans, got together and asked Zerubbabel and the leaders if they could help rebuild the temple. Their offer was refused. Israel had inter-married with them and God feared they would be drawn away from the Holy God and worship idols.

Israel went through a season of separation, suffering, and humbling humility. God was consecrating a group of people he could set apart, just as in this season he is consecrating us for his service.

Israel was supposed to influence the foreigner, but instead they were influenced by the foreigner. We are supposed to stand on holy ground, God's word and truth so we can influence the world.

The Samaritans were mad because their offer was rejected so they decided to sabotage the work the Israelites were doing. They bribed the people and told lies. They claimed the taxes and the tribute money would be lost and progress in the Trans Euphrates region would stop. The king believed the lies and echoed what was told to him. He saw Israel's progress and feared them.

Israel did not have to tear anybody down to be successful. Israel was blessed by God Almighty. God's faithfulness is with us. He is steadfast and allows us to withstand the storms of life. He can tolerate betrayal. Remember they lied on him, called him a blasphemer, beat him, and nailed him to a cross.

Even though Israel messed up, he had called them to a great work only they could do and he would complete the work.