



Sunday Sermon Discussion Outline

Pastor Philip Thomas, August 16, 2026

Ezra 4:1-24 – Rebuilding Brings... Opposition

As soon as the Israelites started rebuilding the temple, their enemies rose up in opposition.

Rebuilding brings... opposition

- Disguised motives
- Discouragement
- Direct & indirect intimidation

We must...

- Discern the source and type of opposition
- Draw wisdom and strength from the Lord
- Deal decisively and specifically with the opposition

We respond and apply the Word of God we have heard by continuing to build despite opposition.

May you receive the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. May you know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. May you not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (John 14:17, Ephesians 4:29)

Discussion Questions:

- What kinds of opposition did the Israelites face when they attempted to rebuild the House of the Lord? How does this apply to you?
- Why is it important to discern the source and type of opposition that you are facing?
- What does it mean to draw wisdom and strength from the Lord to deal with opposition?
- How can you deal with the opposition you are facing from the world, your flesh, or the devil?
- What can you do to keep building despite opposition?