

RETURN, REBUILD, RESTORE

Summit Christian Athletics November Devotional



EZRA 4:1-7, 24

When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a temple for Yahweh, the God of Israel, they approached Zerubbabel and the leaders of the families and said to them, “Let us build with you, for we also worship your God and have been sacrificing to Him since the time King Esar-haddon of Assyria brought us here.”

But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the other leaders of Israel’s families answered them, “You may have no part with us in building a house for our God, since we alone must build it for Yahweh, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus, the king of Persia has commanded us.” Then the people who were already in the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build. They also bribed officials to act against them to frustrate their plans throughout the reign of King Cyrus of Persia and until the reign of King Darius of Persia.

At the beginning of the reign of Ahasuerus, the people who were already in the land wrote an accusation against the residents of Judah and Jerusalem. During the time of King Artaxerxes of Persia, Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeal and the rest of his colleagues wrote to King Artaxerxes. The letter was written in Aramaic and translated... Now the construction of God’s house in Jerusalem had stopped and remained at a standstill until the second year of the reign of King Darius of Persia.



INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

Players & Coaches: Use this space to write down a prayerful reflection on how this scripture applies to your team

TEAM REFLECTION

The people who were offering “help” were Samaritans. They worshipped the God of the Bible, Yahweh, along with other Gods. If they would have been allowed to help build the temple, they would have expected access to it for themselves and their pagan Gods. The Samaritans also saw political and financial benefit to partnering with the Jews. Led by Zerubbabel, the Jews stayed united as a team in their refusal to let the Samaritans help.

1. What outside influences do you and your teammates need to say no to, in order to glorify God and represent Christ? How will saying no to these things make you a better team?
2. Even though they did the right thing, the people’s work on the temple was still temporarily stopped. What things can we do to keep our seasons going, and how should we respond if something does get delayed?