

- I. God's people doing God's work will encounter God's _____ .
(Ezra 4:1; Matthew 5:11–12; John 15:18–19; I Peter 5:8; I Corinthians 16:9; II Timothy 3:12).
- II. Satan will try to trap us by fine-sounding but unholy _____, but we must be _____ .
(Ezra 4:2–3; Ephesians 6:11; II Kings 17; II Corinthians 6:14–17)
- III. Satan will try _____ traps to thwart us from the work.
(Ezra 4:4a; Proverbs 17:22)
- IV. Satan will try various _____ to _____ us from the work.
(Ezra 4:4b; Proverbs 29:25; Isaiah 8:11–13; Philippians 4:6–7)
- V. Satan will try dirty tricks to _____ us from the work.
(Ezra 4:5; Ephesians 6:10–18)
- VI. Satan will use _____ and _____ roadblocks to _____ God's work.
(Ezra 4:5; Acts 4:17–21; Acts 5:27–29)
- VII. Satan is _____, seeking to thwart God's work.
(Ezra 4:5–24; I Corinthians 15:58)
- VIII. Satan will attempt to muster a _____ to thwart God's work.
(Ezra 4:7–10; Judges 7:2–7; I Samuel 17:45–47)
- IX. Satan will try to slander our _____ to get others to be hostile to God's work. (Ezra 4:12–16; Matthew 5:10–12)
- X. Satan will throw our _____ back upon us to hinder God's _____ among us.
(Ezra 4:14–16; Philippians 3:13–14; Romans 8:1; Revelation 12:10)

XI. Satan will use _____ and _____, if he can, to thwart us in the work of God.

(Ezra 4:23; Daniel 3:16–18; Galatians 6:9)

XII. For a season, it can seem that Satan _____ the work of God among us, but that is never the _____ of the story.

(Ezra 4:24; Hebrews 12:28; Matthew 16:18; James 5:7–8)

Additional Notes:



Diving Deeper in Scripture Together

Questions for Discussion & Reflection

Ezra 4

1. The sermon notes that opposition arose when the work began. Why is it spiritually dangerous to assume that God's work will always come with ease, affirmation, or universal support?
2. The adversaries offered help that sounded religious and cooperative. Why is compromise often more dangerous than open hostility? Where are you most tempted to lower convictions in order to gain speed, approval, or peace?
3. Zerubbabel refused partnership without apology. What does this teach us about faithfulness versus pragmatism in God's work? How do you discern when saying "no" is an act of love rather than arrogance?
4. Why does Scripture treat discouragement as a serious spiritual threat rather than a minor emotional state? What helps you guard your heart when enthusiasm fades but obedience remains necessary?
5. How does Ezra show that God remains sovereign even when opposition uses lawful systems (Ezra 4:5)? How do you balance respect for authority with obedience to God when the two come into tension?
6. Scripture presents perseverance as a spiritual virtue forged over time. Where is God calling you to remain faithful without seeing immediate results?
7. Scripture often calls believers to endure false accusations quietly. Why is slander such a common tactic against God's people throughout Scripture? What helps you entrust your reputation to God rather than defending it aggressively?
8. The enemy repeatedly weaponizes past sin against present obedience, and the gospel acknowledges real failure without allowing it to define identity. Why is this balance essential? What would it look like to move forward in obedience without being paralyzed by regret?

9. Which tactic in Ezra 4 do you find most subtle or dangerous in your current season- and why?
10. Where might God be calling you to greater discernment rather than greater activity?
11. How does this passage reshape your understanding of spiritual warfare as persistent, patient, and often ordinary?
12. What would faithfulness look like this week if you trusted that a temporary halt never ends God's purposes?
13. How can this group pray for one another to remain discerning, courageous, and steady when opposition comes disguised as reason, fear, or delay?