

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: February 28, 2016
Ezra 4

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

2. What did these enemies say in verse 2?
 - a. Alright stop what you're doing...
 - b. Let us help you...
 - c. We have been sacrificing to God...

3. Where did these enemies come from?
 - 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 a the area to the north of Jerusalem, the story of these "enemies" was probably very similar.

4. Why didn't Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the rest of the family heads let these people help?
 - 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.

5. Is it possible that some who say they worship our God are actually working against us even as they say they they want to help? Yes _____ No _____ Explain. _____

6. Are you one of them? _____

7. What happened when Israel's leaders did not let these people help?
 - 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 this opposition?
 - a. They kept building.
 - b. King Artexerxes commanded them to stop building.
 - c. The local authorities "compelled them by force" to stop building.
 - d. This is not the end of the story.

9. Is it possible that the setbacks you are experiencing in your life are not the end of the story?