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(Peter Lok)駱沅祺

[lokpeter@outlook.com](mailto:lokpeter@outlook.com)

[Bibleao.com](http://Bibleao.com)

## Daily Bible devotional; Daily Rice 2024 July 01

### YouTube Prayer Link

Revive the church and heal my soul

The fourth chapter of the book of Ezra focuses on the setbacks and obstacles faced by the Jews in rebuilding the temple and walls, and how they coped with these challenges.

The chapter begins with an account of the opposition of some neighboring nations to the Jewish rebuilding of the temple, which they used by various means, including threats, temptations, and lawsuits against the Persian king, to prevent the Jews from building it. However, the leaders of Ezra and Jerusalem did not give in, and they continued to build, and although the construction process was delayed and difficult, the construction task was finally completed.

The chapter then describes the continued construction of the walls of Jerusalem by the Jews after the temple was built. The construction of the walls was also met with opposition and obstruction from the neighbors, but the Jews remained steadfast in their rights and territory.

When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the exiles were rebuilding the temple, they came to Zerubbabel and the clan leaders of Israel and pretended to be willing to help, saying that they also worshiped the same god and had sacrificed to God since the time of King Esarhadon of Assyria. Faith doesn't have to be smooth sailing. Although they were able to return to their hometown to rebuild the Holy Temple, it was true that Jehovah inspired this command from King Cyrus, but God's leadership would bring people to high points and sometimes low tides. In the midst of the highs and lows, we have to experience how God protects his people.

In the more than nine years that the temple was suspended, God's recovery did not stop. For the temple is the exterior of restoration, and man is the center of restoration. God allowed the construction to be interrupted in order to reveal the natural nature of man, so that God's people

would no longer dare to rely on what they had and what they could do, nor would they dare to rely on the power of the king, thinking that no one would dare to stop them as Cyrus king of Persia had commanded.

The rebuilding project is actually a spiritual battle, because God's work can only be done by God. These difficulties lead man to recognize himself, to force man to God, to trust in God, to claim God, and to begin the restoration of the kingdom of priesthood from the heart of man.

Faith doesn't always have to be smooth sailing. Although it is true that the Sovereign Jehovah stirred up the command of King Cyrus when they were able to return to their homeland to rebuild the temple, God's leadership can lead to high and sometimes low tides. In the midst of the highs and lows, we have to experience how God protects his people.

#### Attacks in the revival church

The revival of the church is a time when the hearts of God's people are awakened, holy, and the gospel is actively proclaimed. However, such spiritual revival is often accompanied by various forms of attack and interference. These attacks not only come from the outside world, but can also originate from internal problems. Understanding and responding to these attacks is a challenge that every church that desires revival must face.

As the church enters a period of revival, it inevitably clashes with secular culture. Society may question and criticize the church's beliefs, values, and moral stance. For example, the church's insistence on traditional views of marriage and sexual morality may be seen as outdated

In some areas, governments and laws may impose restrictions on the activities of the church. For example, public proselytizing is prohibited, religious gatherings are restricted, and even church leaders are censored and suppressed. In such an environment, the church needs to wisely seek the protection of the law while remaining faithful to the faith.

Modern media sometimes unjustly report on the church, magnify problems within the church, and even distort the doctrine and doctrine of the church

In the process of revival, there may be various divisions and divisions within the church. These disputes often stem from disagreements over issues such as doctrine, church administration, and resource allocation. If not addressed in a timely manner, these divisions can seriously affect the unity and unity of the church

When the church is in a period of revival, believers may face all kinds of temptations and weaknesses. For example, human weaknesses such as pride, complacency, jealousy, and greed will be revealed in the process of revival. The church needs to constantly remind believers to be humble, vigilant, and vigilant

The Bible teaches us that spiritual revival often leads to spiritual attacks. Satan and demons will use all sorts of means to try to prevent the revival of the church. These attacks can manifest themselves in the form of shaken faith of believers, coldness in prayer life, stumbling of church leaders, etc. Churches need to resist these spiritual attacks through spiritual disciplines such as prayer, fasting, and Bible reading.

We pray together:

The revival church is bound to face various forms of attacks and challenges. These attacks are not only a test of faith in the church, but also a test of faithfulness and perseverance of believers. Through persistent prayer, strengthened unity, spiritual building, and wise response, the church can stand firm in the midst of attacks and continue on the path of revival to make greater contributions to the kingdom of God.

In this process, the church must not only rely on its own efforts, but also look to God for protection and guidance, because "if the Lord had not built the house, the builder would have worked in vain; If it were not for the Lord, the keepers would be awake."

Pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

Ezra 4

4:1 The enemies of Judah and Benjam heard that the captives had built houses for the God of Jehova and Israel,

4:2 And he went to Sorubbabel and to the patriarchs of Israel, and said to them,

Allow us to build with you, for we seek your God as you are. Since King Esaronia brought us to this land from King Esarya, we have always sacrificed to God.

4:3 But Sorubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the Israelite patriarchs said to them, "We have nothing to do with you in building the temple of God, but we ourselves build for the co-operation of the gods of Yahweh and Israel." It was as Cyrus the king of Pos commanded.

4:4 And the people of the land softened their hands and disturbed them when they were being built.

4:5 From the time of King Cyrus to the time of King Bethle's accession to the throne, bribes the conspirators to defeat their schemes.

4:6 At the time of Ahab's accession to the throne with Ruru, this accusation was made against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

4:7 Artaxerxes, Bischland, Mitrida, Tabe, and their comrades, the last recital to King Artaxerxes of Bos. This chapter is in Aramaic and Aramaic dialects.

4:8 And the governor and the scribe were to accuse the Jerusalems and to the king of Ardaxerxes.

4:9 Governor Richmond, the scribe Sarshuai, and the Dinas of the same party, and the Arphassatites, and the Taperasites, and the Phassa, and the Archeweth, and the Babylonians, and the Shushanchah, and the Dihaites, and the Ichites,

4:10 and those whom the great Aznabas had moved and settled in the city of Samaria and in the area west of the Great River.

4:11 King Xerxes said that the subjects of Hexi were cloudy. 4:12 The king should know that the Jews who have come up from the king to us have come to Jerusalem to rebuild this wicked city of rebellion, to build foundations, and to build walls.

4:13 Now the king should know that if they build this city, and the walls are finished, they will no longer pay tribute, pay taxes, or pay taxes, and in the end the king will be in a loss. 4:14 Since we have eaten salt, we could not bear to see the king lose money, so we told the king.

4:15 Examine the records of the kings, and he will find out in them that it is a city of rebellion, and that it is a city of rebellion, and that it is a disobedience to the kings and of the provinces, and that there have been rebellions in it since time immemorial, and that it has been destroyed for the sake of it.

4:16 We know to the king, that if this city is built again, and the walls of the city are finished, the king of the land beyond the river shall have no part.

4:17 At that time, the king sent an edict to the governor and the secretary to the governor and the secretary to the commander, and to their comrades, who were people living in Samaria and in the area west of the river, saying, "May you be in peace."

4:18 What you have written above has been clearly read before me.

4:19 I have sent men to investigate and learn that this city has rebelled against the kings in ancient times, and that there have been many rebellions and rebellions in it.

4:20 Once upon a time there was a great king in Jerusalem who ruled over all the land of Hexi, and they were given the burden, the payment of classes, and the payment of taxes.

4:21 Now you will give a notice to these men to stop their work, so that this city may not be built, until I will give you a decree.

4:22 Take heed and do not delay, why should you allow the king to suffer any loss?

4:23 When King Artaxerxes read the edict before Rehon and the scribe and their comrades, they hurried to Jerusalem to meet the Jews and forced them to stop their work.

4:24 So the work on the temple in Jerusalem stopped, and stopped

to the second year of King Pos . Ezra Chapter 4 Detailed summary

The fourth chapter of the book of Ezra focuses on the setbacks and obstacles faced by the Jews in rebuilding the temple and walls, and how they coped with these challenges.

The chapter begins with an account of the opposition of some neighboring nations to the Jewish rebuilding of the temple, which they used by various means, including threats, temptations, and lawsuits against the Persian king, to prevent the Jews from building it. However, the leaders of Ezra and Jerusalem did not give in, and they continued to build, and although the construction process was delayed and difficult, the construction task was finally completed.

The chapter then describes the continued construction of the walls of Jerusalem by the Jews after the temple was built. The construction of the walls was also met with opposition and obstruction from the neighbors, but the Jews remained steadfast in their rights and territory.

Finally, the chapter mentions a number of figures, including Seratiel and his companions, as well as some records of the construction process, such as a letter to King Artaxerxes.

Overall, the chapter focuses on the obstacles and setbacks that the Jews faced in the process of construction, but they still maintained their faith and conviction and worked hard to preserve their rights and territories.

Ezra chapter 4 contains a number of important passages, the most prominent of which is the following passage: "The children of Judah and Benjamin rejoiced exceedingly among the Israelites when they heard that their returnees had built the house of God. Those who returned from exile served daily in the temple of God, and they rebuilt the altar and offered burnt offerings on it, as it was written in the book of the Law of Moses. And they built the sanctuary, and they offered sacrifices on the Sabbath day, and on the New Moon, and on the three feasts of the year, according to the law of Moses, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Day of Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles. (Ezra 4:1-3)

This passage describes the process by which the Jews rebuilt the temple and their worship practices in the temple. They rebuilt the altars, offered burnt offerings, and built sanctuaries. In addition, they also obeyed the laws and regulations of Moses by offering sacrifices on the Sabbath, the New Moon, and the three major Jewish festivals.

However, later in the passage there are also references to the actions of those who opposed the rebuilding of the temple. These men, trying to prevent the Jews from rebuilding the Temple, sent a letter to the King of Persia accusing the Jews of rebellion. These actions eventually led to the suspension of construction work. Thus, this passage in Ezra 4 emphasizes the Jewish practice of worship and faith, as well as the difficulties and opposition they faced in rebuilding the temple. It also demonstrates God's faithfulness and protection, who protects and blesses the Jews despite the opposition and difficulties they face.

Ezra 4 describes the hostility and resistance of the Israelites as they rebuilt the temple. The theological central ideas of this chapter deal with the testing of faith, the existence of opposing forces, and God's preservation and intervention.

## Theological Central Ideas:

**A Test of Faith:** In Ezra 4, hostile nations come to thwart Israel's work to rebuild the temple. At various times, they wrote to the king of Persia and even complained to the king of Persia about the Israelites' rebuilding of the temple. This was a test of faith for the Israelites, and in the face of adversity and hostility, did they stand firm in their faith and persist in completing God's work?

**The Presence of Hostile Forces:** Ezra 4 shows the presence of hostile forces trying to thwart God's plan. These hostile forces do not want the Israelis to regain their strength and restore their country. They used means and stratagems to get the people of Israel to stop rebuilding the temple and to hinder their progress.

**God's Preservation and Intervention:** In Ezra 4, God's preservation and intervention are key. Not only did God keep the hearts of the Israelites to continue building the temple, but He also intervened in the decisions of the Persian king so that the people of Israel could be supported in their difficulties.

## Theological gains:

**Steadfast in the face of trials:** Ezra 4 teaches us to be steadfast in our faith in the face of trials. Even in the face of adversity and difficulties, we should remain steadfast in our faith and trust in God's leading and helping to continue in His path.

**Beware of the effects of hostile forces:** Ezra 4 reminds us to be wary of the effects of hostile forces. Hostile forces may try to thwart God's work in a variety of ways, and we should be vigilant and stay on God's path.

**Look to God for Preservation and Intervention:** Ezra 4 emphasizes looking to God for protection and intervention. God is our protector, He watches over His people, and we look to Him for help and rely on His power.

Overall, Ezra 4 teaches us to face trials with faith, to be wary of the influence of hostile forces, and to look to God for protection and intervention. These theologies will help us continue to grow in our faith and to be steadfast in God's will.