

Restoration of Exiles: A Study of Ezra
Chapter 5

1. Read 5:1-2. This verses summarizes the work of Haggai and Zechariah, which we looked at the last two weeks. What was the result of their prophesying, according to v. 2? What else did the prophets do besides speak their messages to the people, according to v. 2? (we think the work resumed about 520 BC). Do you think this will be the end of the opposition to their work on the Temple?
2. Read 5:1-3. Verse 3 mentions some (non-Jewish) leaders in the area around Judah who don't want the Jews to rebuild. Did their questions stop the work? (v. 5). Why not? (v. 5)
3. Verses 6-17 quote another actual document that Ezra had access to when he wrote his book. It is a letter these opponents of the Jews wrote to the supreme king back in Persia, who was Darius at this time.
4. Read 6-10. This recounts what was recorded in vv. 3-4.
5. Read 11-16. This recounts how the Jews answered those who questioned them. Was it all true? What do you learn about God from v. 12?
6. Read v. 17. Having recounted the events that took place, the opponents of the Jews ask King Darius to make search to see if what the Jews told them about receiving a decree to rebuild the Temple is true. ("To be continued"—come back next week to see what happens!)
7. Why do you think the people mentioned in v. 3 were opposing the work of rebuilding the Temple? How and why do outsiders oppose the work of God in our world today?
8. Why do you think God allows people to oppose his work/our work?
9. What affect does it have on you when someone opposes a good work you are doing? Do you stop? (v. 5)
10. Do you receive more opposition from outsiders or other Christians? What do you make of this?
11. Do you ever oppose the work of other Christians? If so, can you figure out why?