

May 3, 2026

THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

Pastor: [Jesse Bradley](#) Series: [Come Home](#) Scripture: [Ezra 4:1-24](#)

Chapter Four – RECOGNIZE THE SCHEMES

There was significant opposition to the rebuilding of the temple. There is a spiritual battle in every city.

Darkness wants to defeat the light, and people are against God's work.

The first attempt included pretending to be nice and helpful. Offering to help was devious and was an attempt to infiltrate and destroy from within. The people of God recognized this scheme and refused. You need to set limits and guard what you value. The next attempt included threats, harassment, and discouragement. Even though King Cyrus made a decree, some people tried to undermine the work and twist the truth. The temple was for the only true God, not false gods. There were lies and false accusations.

Fears can lead to bad decisions.

The Israelites had noble intentions, but their enemies twisted the narrative. We see the same tactics today. The work was halted, but a delay doesn't mean a denial. God has the final say.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is the initial tactic of the enemies of God's plan? ([Ezra 4:1-2](#))
2. What do you notice about this wise response? ([Ezra 4:3](#))
3. What is the next scheme to stop God's people? ([Ezra 4:4-5](#))
4. What is the purpose and goal of this letter? ([Ezra 4:6-16](#))
5. What roadblocks are you facing, and how can you gain new victories from God? ([Ezra 4:17-24](#))
6. Who can you share this Scripture with during the upcoming week?

SERMON POINTS:

How the enemy works:

1. Pretending to be kind: honor God.
2. Darts of discouragement and fear: serve God.
3. False accusations and assumptions: trust God.