

## Haggai, Ezra and Nehemiah

*Gail Arterburn –2021*

Monday, 9:30 – 11:00 am

To be discussed –01/18/21

Lesson 3

Ezra 4:1-5:2, Haggai 1:1-15

1. Read Ezra 4:1-5. Who were these enemies of Judah and Benjamin? How did they first try to interfere with the building of the temple?
2. How did Zerubbabel and Jeshua respond? Why? Can you think of any modern day parallel that endangers the church?
3. Since their first plan did not work, what did their enemies try to do next? Did the opposition stop? Will we face opposition today? Why? Should we be discouraged or afraid? (See also 1 John 4:4)

Read Ezra 4:6-23. This is a parenthetical section that is not in chronological order. Remember Ezra is writing after the fact, looking back on history. He is giving a summary account of the opposition they faced in future years under the reign of Xerxes and Artaxerxes. He picks up the account of Zerubbabel and the rebuilding of the temple in v. 24.

4. How did the opposition continue to cause problems:
  - V. 6
  - V. 7
  - V. 8-16. What charges did they make against the Jews?
  - Vv. 17-23. How did King Artaxerxes respond?
5. Read Ezra 4:24-5:2 and Haggai 1:1-15. Fifteen years have passed between Ezra 4 and 5 without any building of the temple during that time. What does God do about the situation?
6. Where Ezra focused on the opposition from the enemies of the Jews, Haggai focused on the opposition from the Jews themselves. According to Haggai 1:2-3, what was their rationale for not working on the temple? What were they doing instead?
7. Were their lives successful? What was the result of their wrong priorities? What should they have been doing? (vv. 5-11)
8. Read Haggai 1:12-15. How did they respond to the word of God through Haggai? What encouragement and enablement for success did God give them? What lessons for today did you find in this chapter of Haggai?