

## **“When Adversaries Arise”**

Ezra 4:1-24

### **Today's BIG IDEA:**

***Whenever you pursue Jesus, the world will always push back.***

**1. As we follow Jesus, opposition will be \_\_\_\_\_**  
(v.1)

**2. As we follow Jesus, opposition will \_\_\_\_\_**  
(v.2-24)

v.1-5	Opposition during the reign of Cyrus	538-530 BC
v.5	Opposition during the reign of Darius	522-520 BC
v.6	Opposition during the reign of Ahasuerus (Xerxes)	486-464 BC
v.7-23	Opposition during the reign of Artaxerxes	464-423 BC
v.24	The storyline returns to the reigns of Cyrus/Darius	538-520 BC

**3. As we follow Jesus, opposition will \_\_\_\_\_**  
(v.2-24)

A. Adversaries will try to \_\_\_\_\_ your obedience (v.1-3)  
(2 Kings 17:24-41)

B. Adversaries will try to \_\_\_\_\_ your obedience (v.4-5)

C. Adversaries will try to \_\_\_\_\_ your obedience (v.6-16)

D. Adversaries will try to \_\_\_\_\_ your obedience (v.17-24)

**4. As we follow Jesus, opposition will not \_\_\_\_\_**  
(v.24)

A. God is \_\_\_\_\_ even when he allows us to be opposed.  
(Job 1:6-12)

B. Opposition to Christ is a regular and lifelong reality.  
(2 Timothy 3:12)

C. The level of our opposition is directly correlated to the level of our  
\_\_\_\_\_.  
(John 15:18-20)

D. Our suffering makes us more like Jesus.  
(1 Peter 4:12-14)

E. Our opponents are not the enemy. They are the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Matthew 5:44)

F. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ King and he will have the final  
word.  
(John 16:33)

### **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. Describe a time when you were actively opposed because of your obedience to Christ. How did you respond?
2. Think of a story of a Christian martyr. How does their testimony encourage you?
3. How do you typically view those who oppose you? How does the gospel compel us to respond to them?