

Ezra 4

King James Version (KJV)

4 Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel; (Samaria – where the Assyrians had populated the land with heathen people after they took the 10 northern tribes captive) 2Kings-17:24(Some of these people were from Hamath – the city of the Kenites)

²Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither. (Deception to subvert is the method of operation of the Kenites. It still is today. They infiltrate, and then change the doctrine to destroy anyone trying to do God's work)

2Kings-17:25 (God was not happy with the influx of Samaritans into Samaria. They were idol worshipping heathen)

³But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us. (They saw through the deception)

⁴Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building, (The Kenites and Samaritans won't take no for an answer. They seek to destroy anything that has to do with the worship of Yahoveh. They start trouble to divide the people to weaken them)

⁵And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia. (counselors = advisers) (Although Darius was not related to Cyrus, he continued to support the 3 tribes in Judah as Cyrus had done) (These counselors from Samaria were able to delay the completion of the temple by 15 years)

⁶And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, wrote they unto him an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem. (Ahasuerus – this was a Title, not a name) (False accusations are also Satan's M.O.) (It forces the accused to stop work in order to defend themselves against the false accusations)

⁷ And in the days of Artaxerxes wrote Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of their companions, unto Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the writing of the letter was written in the Syrian tongue, and interpreted in the Syrian tongue. (Artaxerxes = the great king – also not a name but rather a title; possibly referring to Cyrus)

The following verses up to chapter-6:18 were written in the Aramaic or Chaldee < Babylonian language> in the scrolls)

⁸ Rehum the chancellor and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king in this sort: (A letter of false accusations against Judah to get the king to stop his support of the people)

⁹ Then wrote Rehum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their companions; the Dinaites, the Apharsathchites, the Tarpelites, the Apharsites, the Archevites, the Babylonians, the Susanchites, the Dehavites, and the Elamites, (These were the heathen tribes that settled in Samaria after the people were taken by Assyria)

¹⁰ And the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Asnapper brought over, and set in the cities of Samaria, and the rest that are on this side the river, and at such a time.

¹¹ This is the copy of the letter that they sent unto him, even unto Artaxerxes the king; Thy servants the men on this side the river, and at such a time.

¹² Be it known unto the king, that the Jews which came up from thee to us are come unto Jerusalem, building the rebellious and the bad city, and have set up the walls thereof, and joined the foundations.

¹³ Be it known now unto the king, that, if this city be builded, and the walls set up again, then will they not pay toll, tribute, and custom, and so thou shalt endamage the revenue of the kings. (They are saying that once the city walls are up, that the people intend to rebel against the king of Persia. This is all lies)

¹⁴ Now because we have maintenance from the king's palace, and it was not meet for us to see the king's dishonour, therefore have we sent and certified the king; (They pretend to be loyal friends of the king – just looking out for his benefit – all lies. They said that if the king's revenue is reduced by a rebellion, they will suffer financially)

from it as well, being loyal subjects if the king) (In the Chaldee language -> The salt of the king is also out salt)

¹⁵ That search may be made in the book of the records of thy fathers: so shalt thou find in the book of the records, and know that this city is a rebellious city, and hurtful unto kings and provinces, and that they have moved sedition within the same of old time: for which cause was this city destroyed. (They are saying that they have the records to prove their claim. – “Look at history to see that we are correct. Israel was the most powerful nation when they were worshipping Yahoveh. If you allow them to return, they will become as powerful as they were once.”)

(Using fear, uncertainty and doubt is a common tactic of the Kenites to deceive people into seeing things their way)

¹⁶ We certify the king that, if this city be builded again, and the walls thereof set up, by this means thou shalt have no portion on this side the river.

¹⁷ Then sent the king an answer unto Rehum the chancellor, and to Shimshai the scribe, and to the rest of their companions that dwell in Samaria, and unto the rest beyond the river, Peace, and at such a time. (The king's response to their letter)

¹⁸ The letter which ye sent unto us hath been plainly read before me.

¹⁹ And I commanded, and search hath been made, and it is found that this city of old time hath made insurrection against kings, and that rebellion and sedition have been made therein. (The king did his due diligence and he agrees with them. Israel had been very powerful and independent in the past, by God's grace)

²⁰ There have been mighty kings also over Jerusalem, which have ruled over all countries beyond the river; and toll, tribute, and custom, was paid unto them. (Also historically true. In the days of David and Solomon, Israel was the superpower of the entire region)

²¹ Give ye now commandment to cause these men to cease, and that this city be not builded, until another commandment shall be given from me.

²² Take heed now that ye fail not to do this: why should damage grow to the hurt of the kings? (Using fear, uncertainty and doubt to provoke the king)

²³ Now when the copy of king Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, and Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went up in haste to Jerusalem unto the Jews, and made them to cease by force and power. (The plot worked. Judah was ordered by force, to cease the repairing of the wall of Jerusalem)

²⁴ Then ceased the work of the house of God which is at Jerusalem. So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia. (The delay in building would last another 15 years. Meanwhile they continued to build houses for themselves)