

### Why Zerubbabel should have said yes:

- It was an opportunity for the community churches to work together.
- It was an opportunity to extend an olive branch.
- These people worshiped as the Jews did. Same God, same worship. In fact, they had been doing so in the holy land for about 180 years, longer than Zerubbabel or any of the others who had come back to build the house of God.
- One of God's own priests taught them the law of God, 2 Kings 17:27-28.
- Zerubbabel wouldn't have appeared to be so rude and unfriendly.
- The Jews wouldn't have appeared to be so exclusive.
- This was a big job. They could have used the help.
- They wouldn't have made these people so angry with them.

### Why Zerubbabel was right in saying no:

- The people of the land were not builders in God's kingdom.
- They had a form of worship but were not part of God's plan.
- They had nothing to do with the true worshipers of God. No connection whatsoever. Only superficial similarities of religious tradition.
- The Jews did not just worship the god of the land but the God of all creation.
- There was no room in their theology for other gods.
- The Jews would build the temple for God.
- The Jews were commissioned by God via Cyrus.

### What happens when we choose to build with God alone:

- Our adversaries will try to **discourage us**, 4:4.
- Our adversaries will try to **make us afraid** to build, 4:4.
- Our adversaries will manipulate people to try to **frustrate** our purposes, 4:5.
- Our adversaries will **write accusations**, 4:6-7.
- Our adversaries will **gather as many people** against us as possible, 4:8-10.
- Our adversaries will use **scare tactics**, 4:11-16.
- Our adversaries will use **political force**, 4:17-24.
- Our adversaries will **lose** the war.
- **We will successfully build because God is God!**

## ■ Building Alone with God!

## ■ Ezra 4:1-24

## ■ “Hear, O Church!” [Shema] [Listen]

- There is a reason God calls us to himself above all else.



**With whom do we build?**