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Opposition during the Reigns of Ahasuerus and Artakh'shasta Ezra 4: 6-24

445 BC During the ministry of Nehemiah (see **Bt – The Third Return**). **Compiled by the Chronicler from the Ezra and Nehemiah memoirs** (see **Ac – Ezra-Nehemiah from a Jewish Perspective: The Nehemiah Memoirs**)**.**

Reduced to its simplest form, these verses consist of a series of letters between the **Jewish** opposition and the Persian throne. The first letter to **Ahasuerus** is mentioned in passing with no response from **the king** recorded. But the second letter to **Artakh'shasta** is more detailed, specific names are given; Aramaic, the official language of the Persian Empire is used, and **the king** responds back with a letter of **his** own (see **Aw – The Resumption of Work Under King Darius**).[71]



From the initial opposition of trying to rebuild **the Temple** within six months of **the Jew's** return **(Ezra 4:4)**, to the opposition mentioned a decade-and-a-half later when **Darius** assumed the throne (see **Af – Ezra-Nehemiah Chronology**), to the opposition over trying to build **the walls** around **Jerusalem** over a hundred years later in the days of **Artakh'shasta**, trouble stalked **the Jews** at every step.

In describing the events in the books of **Ezra** and **Nehemiah**, **the Chronicler**, with the advantage of hindsight, looks back on the historical landscape and refers to the opposition placed in the way of **the Jews**. Thus, **he** rearranged the historical records at **his** disposal to support **his** main purpose, which was to show that **Jewish** opposition lasted a very long time. When discussing the problems of building **the Temple** in **Ezra 4:1-5**, it reminded **him** of similar problems with the rebuilding of **the walls** of **Jerusalem** about ninety years later, and so **Ezra 4:6-23** has been inserted, almost parenthetically, before the narrative of the building of **the Temple** can once again be taken up in **Ezra 4:24**. So, here we temporarily flash-forward to 445 BC and **the Third Return** of **Nehemiah**.