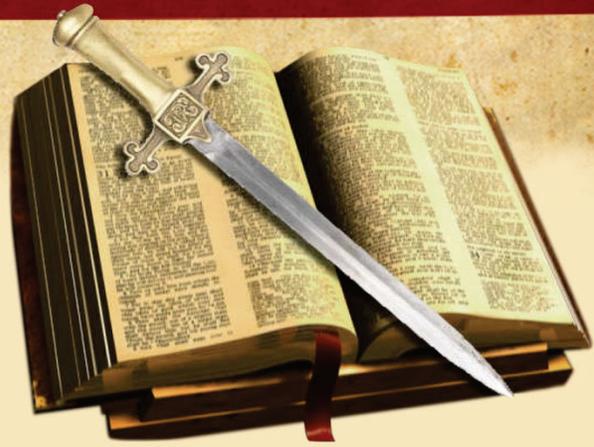


# Setting Your Heart

on the

# Kingdom



EZRA

## *The Weapon of Prophecy!*

*(The Principle of Satan's Tactics and the Prophetic Word)*

Ezra 4 - 5

The devil is desperate and running out of time (Rev. 12:12)! His only hope of delaying eternal judgment (Matt. 8:29) is to stop God's people from fulfilling their destiny on earth. He knows our purpose is the same as Jesus'...to overcome him and destroy his works in our lives (Rev. 12:11; 1 John 3:8). ***Consequently, Satan wars against the Church using intimidation, deceptive counsel, and every possible divisive tactic to discourage and stop our work*** (Rev. 12:13, 17). Such was the case with the Jews who returned from Babylonian captivity to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem.

Their enemies of the Jews knew that their strength resided in their faith. And since temple worship was central in their covenant with God, the rebuilding had to be stopped. Their first demonic tactic was to join with God's people and then bring **confusion from within**. Next they tried to **discourage them with intimidation**. Finally they hired men to **frustrate their counsel**. They further harassed God's people by sending **scandalous accusations** to the king of Persia, saying that the Jews would refuse to pay tribute. Thus, for fifteen years, both the House of God and their Mosaic Covenant remained in ruins...***until the Lord spoke through His prophets***. Through Haggai, God chastised His people for giving in to their enemies. But then He declared, ***"Work, for I am with you!"*** By Zechariah, He proclaimed that the Temple would be completed...***"not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit."*** Had it not been for these powerful prophecies stirring hearts to obedience, the Temple would never have been rebuilt.

***Prophecy is more than a divine declaration...it's a weapon against evil (1 Tim. 1:18)***. When mixed with faith, God's "ever-proceeding" word (Greek: "rhema") is the Sword of the Lord that defeats the devil (Eph. 6:17). Prophetic words also come through anointed sermons and words of knowledge or wisdom. If it's a strong correction, like Haggai gave, receive it with joy as a defensive weapon protecting you from satanic traps. If it's an inspiring word, like Zechariah's, use it offensively to increase your zeal. ***In God's Kingdom, He arms you with many weapons to defeat the enemy. If you've ever received a prophetic word...don't ignore it (1 Thess. 5:19-20)! If you do, the devil may succeed in stopping you!***

***Next: The Kingdom of God in Nehemiah...The Enemy That Lives Within!***

