

## September 17 Answers

- 1) The remnant experienced **opposition** as they labored to rebuild the temple. It came from the **immigrants** who were brought to Israel by the Assyrians after the fall of the northern kingdom. These people worshipped false gods, but they also started worshipping Yahweh, since they believed Him to be the “god of the land” (2 Kgs 17:24–33). They eventually intermarried with the Jews, and their descendants became the **Samaritans**, a mixed breed both racially and religiously. When they approached Zerubbabel and offered to help, he refused because they did not worship God **exclusively**. This teaches us not to partner with those who claim to be Christians, but whose lives reveal that they are not truly born again (1 Cor 5:9–13; 2 Cor 6:14–18). When Zerubbabel rejected their offer, the Assyrian immigrants turned against the remnant and **frightened** them into stopping work on the temple. The Jews abandoned the project, and nothing was done for over **16** years. Then God sent **Haggai** to preach to the remnant (Hag 1:9). This teaches us to put Christ’s Kingdom **first** and seek His glory before our own. If we do, God will bless us and prosper our work. Haggai’s message shook the people out of their complacency and fear, and work on the temple resumed. Opposition continued in the form of governor Tattenai, and **Zechariah** joined Haggai in encouraging the people to stay the course. The people persevered, and a few months later, Darius issued a decree which commanded Tattenai to aid the remnant in their work. This teaches us that when we’re faithful to God and work hard to accomplish His will, He can turn hostility into **help**.