

5 November 2017: Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

**Topic: A Study of Ezra: A Smear Campaign!**

Scripture text: Ezra 4:7-24

1. The enemies of God brought a smear campaign against the Jews because the Jews refused to cooperate with them in the building of God's house. Those who slander Christians are instruments of Satan, whose purpose is to bring down the name of Christ and blind the hearts of men to the truth.
2. The Jews were slandered by a group of men with status and power. They were empowered by Satan to hinder the work of God. As Christians, we battle not with flesh and blood but with spiritual wickedness in high places. Therefore, we must put on the whole armour of God to stand against the wiles of the devil.
3. The accusations against the Jews were misrepresented, resulting in the temporal cessation of God's work. By God's divine intervention, king Artaxerxes made a provision in a decree. God made a way for the city to be eventually rebuilt in Nehemiah's time. Likewise, the godly in Christ will suffer persecutions. We must remain steadfast in our faith trusting that God is still on the throne and will work according to His good will.
4. In times of persecutions, we must overcome evil with good and maintain a good witness for Christ for the glory of God.