

**~ARTAXERXES 1 (187)**  
**(Ar-ta-xerx'es)**

- The Persian ruler who caused the building of Yehowah's temple at Jerusalem to be stopped.
- Also, in the days of **Artaxerxes**, Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel and the rest of his colleagues wrote to **Artaxerxes** the king of Persia, and the writing of the letter was written in **Aramaic** characters and translated into the **Aramaic** language. (**Ezra 4:7**)
- Rehum the chief government official and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to **Artaxerxes** the king, as follows. (**Ezra 4:8**)
- Then Rehum the chief government official and Shimshai the scribe and the rest of their colleagues, the judges and the lesser governor's across the River, the secretaries, the people of Erech, the Babylonians, the inhabitants of Susa, that is, the Elamites. (**Ezra 4:9**)
- And the rest of the nations whom the great and honorable Asenappar took into exile and settled in the cities of Samaria, and the rest beyond the River, and now. (**Ezra 4:10**)
- This is a copy of the letter that they sent concerning it. To **Artaxerxes** the king your servants, the men beyond the River: And now (**Ezra 4:11**)
- Let it become known to the king that the Jews who came up here from you to us have come to Jerusalem. They are building the rebellious and bad city, and they proceed to finish the walls and to repair the foundations. (**Ezra 4:12**)
- Now let it become known to the king that, if this city should be rebuilt and its walls be finished, neither tax nor tribute nor toll will they give, and it will cause loss to the treasuries of the kings. (**Ezra 4:13**)
- Now inasmuch as we do eat the salt of the palace, and it is not proper for us to see the denuding of the king, on this account we have sent and made it known to the king. (**Ezra 4:14**)

- That there may be an investigation of the book of records of your ancestors. Then you will find in the book of records and learn that that city is a city rebellious and causing loss to kings and jurisdictional districts, and within it there were movers of revolt from the days of old. For this reason that city has been laid waste. ([Ezra 4:15](#))
- We are making known to the king that, if that city should be rebuilt and its walls be finished, you also will certainly have no share beyond the River. ([Ezra 4:16](#))
- The king sent word to Rehum the chief government official and Shimshai the scribe and the rest of their colleagues who were dwelling in Samaria and the rest beyond the River, greetings! And now, ([Ezra 4:17](#))
- The official document that you have sent us has been distinctly read before me. ([Ezra 4:18](#))
- So an order has been put through by me, and they have investigated and found that that city has from the days of old been one rising up against kings and one in which rebellion and revolt have been carried on. ([Ezra 4:19](#))
- And there proved to be strong kings over Jerusalem and governing all beyond the River, and tax, tribute and toll were being given to them. ([Ezra 4:20](#))
- Now put an order through for these able-bodied men to stop, that that city may not be rebuilt until the order is put through by me. ([Ezra 4:21](#))
- So be careful that there be no negligence about acting in this regard, that the harm may not increase to the injury of kings. ([Ezra 4:22](#))
- Now after the copy of the official document of **Artaxerxes** the king had been read before Rehum and Shimshai the scribe and their colleagues, they went in a hurry to Jerusalem to the Jews and stopped them by force of arms. ([Ezra 4:23](#))
- It was then that the work on the house of God, which was in Jerusalem, stopped, and it continued stopped until the second

year of the reign of Darius the king of Persia. ([Ezra 4:24](#))

- Between the reigns of Cyrus the Great, who allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem, [537 B.C.E.](#), and of Darius the Great, who in [520 B.C.E.](#) removed the ban imposed on the temple construction, possibly three kings ruled. Cambyses II, his brother Bardiya, or possibly a Magian known as Gaumata who is said to have pretended to be Bardiya and ruled for seven months, and Nidintu-Bel, who was defeated and killed by Darius after just two months. Cambyses is evidently represented by the Ahasuerus mentioned at;
- And in the reign of Ahasuerus, at the start of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem. ([Ezra 4:6](#))
- To whom the first protest was made by the opposers of the temple reconstruction. Therefore, beginning with,
- Also, in the days of [Artaxerxes](#), Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel and the rest of his colleagues wrote to [Artaxerxes](#) the king of Persia, and the writing of the letter was written in Aramaic characters and translated into the Aramaic language. ([Ezra 4:7](#))
- The ruler referred to as [Artaxerxes](#) is either Bardiya or Gaumata, whose rule lasted but seven months [522 B.C.E.](#)
- The people of the cities of Samaria wrote a letter against the Jews to this Persian king.
- Also, in the days of [Artaxerxes](#), Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel and the rest of his colleagues wrote to [Artaxerxes](#) the king of Persia, and the writing of the letter was written in Aramaic characters and translated into the Aramaic language. ([Ezra 4:7](#))
- This was while the Jews were busy building the temple.
- When the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the sons of the Exile were building a temple to Yehowah the God of Israel. ([Ezra 4:1](#))
- They immediately approached Zerubbabel and the heads of the paternal houses and said to them; Let us build along with you, for, just like you, we search for your God and to him we are sacrificing since the days of Esar-haddon the king of Assyria, who

brought us up here. ([Ezra 4:2](#))

- However, Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the rest of the heads of the paternal houses of Israel said to them; You have nothing to do with us in building a house to our God, for we ourselves shall together build to Yehowah the God of Israel, just as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us. ([Ezra 4:3](#))
- In order to achieve their goal, the adversaries of the Jews resorted to lies, stating that the Jews were then rebuilding the city of Jerusalem, including its walls.
- This is a copy of the letter that they sent concerning it; To **Artaxerxes** the king your servants, the men beyond the River: And now ([Ezra 4:11](#))
- Let it become known to the king that the Jews who came up here from you to us have come to Jerusalem. They are building the rebellious and bad city, and they proceed to finish the walls and to repair the foundations. ([Ezra 4:12](#))
- Now let it become known to the king that, if this city should be rebuilt and its walls be finished, neither tax nor tribute nor toll will they give, and it will cause loss to the treasuries of the kings. ([Ezra 4:13](#))
- Now inasmuch as we do eat the salt of the palace, and it is not proper for us to see the denuding of the king, on this account we have sent and made it known to the king. ([Ezra 4:14](#))
- That there may be an investigation of the book of records of your ancestors. Then you will find in the book of records and learn that that city is a city rebellious and causing loss to kings and jurisdictional districts, and within it there were movers of revolt from the days of old. For this reason that city has been laid waste. ([Ezra 4:15](#))
- We are making known to the king that, if that city should be rebuilt and its walls be finished, you also will certainly have no share beyond the River. ([Ezra 4:16](#))
- As a result of these false accusations, the work on the house of God came to a halt.

- **It was then that the work on the house of God, which was in Jerusalem, stopped, and it continued stopped until the second year of the reign of Darius the king of Persia. ([Ezra 4:24](#))**