



Sermon Discussion Guide¹

Ezra 4 | Kevin DeYoung

“When the Bad Guys Win (For Now)”

Sunday Morning, September 14th, 2025

Big Idea: “The good guys don’t win every battle. The war has been decided. The outcome is secure: Jesus wins. But in this life, it doesn’t always look that way. We can’t say that at the end of every day, every year, every decade, or every hearing, or every court case, or every piece of legislation, or at the end of every relational difficulty that absolutely, unequivocally the side of justice and righteousness won out.”

1. How did the news of recent events land on you personally? your family/friends?

2. Zerubbabel was stalled by acts of intimidation (v. 4), bribery (v. 5), lies (v. 6,13,16), exaggeration (v. 15), and flattery (c. 10,14).
 - a. When have you seen wickedness holding up God’s good work?

 - b. How does Ezra help us think about these set-backs?

3. Lewis wrote, “God whispers in our pleasures, but shouts in our pain.” Have you seen this to be true in your own life?

4. Read John 16:1-4 and 16:32-33. This incredible promise comes to 11 disciples with an incredible need: endurance. What comes to mind when you read these verses from John 16?

5. How can we pray in this current season? Have any prayers in particular come to mind?

¹ SDGs are put together by the Small Groups Ministry to aid group discussion. They are available every week on the [small groups page](#) of the church website. Please send questions or feedback to calebjohnson@christcovenant.org. Feel free to pivot to next Sunday’s sermon. Read next text aloud as a group, pointing out observations and connections.