

The history leading up to this book:

586 BC – The Temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar.

538 BC – The exiled Jews return to Jerusalem (Ezra 1:1-4).

536 BC – Ezra returned to Jerusalem with about 50,000 Jews.

535 BC – They rebuilt the altar, resumed sacrificial ceremonies, and laid the foundation for the Temple (Ezra 3:10-13).

520 BC – Opposition stopped the work (Ezra 4:24), which initiated this prophecy.

515 BC – The Temple is rebuilt (Ezra 6:13-15).

1. Their _____ (2-4)
 - (2) “The Lord of Armies says this: These people say: The time has not come for the house of the Lord to be rebuilt.”
 - They went from rebuilding the _____ for _____ to building _____ for _____.
 - (3-4) Living in “paneled houses” just meant that all the finishing touches had been done and no expense had been spared on the houses they lived in.
 - The Temple was where God’s presence would _____, where their worship would be _____, and where they could remember their _____ as His _____.
 - Matthew 15:8-9; Ephesians 3:20; Luke 15:11-32.

We can make _____, or we can make _____, but we can’t do both at the same time.

2. His _____ (5-6)
 - (6) He lays out the ways that they have neglected the Lord’s work but seen to their own needs.
 - They were working for the _____ and therefore missing out on the _____ of God.
 - “An affluent generation of Christians that is wasting God’s generous gifts on trivia and toys will have much to answer for when the Lord returns.” – Warren Wiersbe
 - Matthew 6:25-34.