Ezra 4 – Opposition to the Work Ezra 4 – Opposition to the Work Chronology of Ezra 4 Chronology of Ezra 4 • Ezra 4:1-5, 24 • Ezra 4:1-5, 24 ~536 BC Cyrus ~536 BC Cyrus • Ezra 4:5, 24 $\rightarrow 520$ Darius I • Ezra 4:5, 24 $\rightarrow 520$ Darius I Ahasuerus (Xerxes) ~485 Ahasuerus (Xerxes) • Ezra 4:6 ~485 • Ezra 4:6 • Ezra 4:7-23 464-458 Artaxerxes • Ezra 4:7-23 464-458 Artaxerxes **Opposition to Rebuilding of the Temple (4:1-5) Opposition to Rebuilding of the Temple (4:1-5)** • The enemies of Judah and Benjamin (v. 1) • The enemies of Judah and Benjamin (v. 1) 1. _____ the LORD *and* _____ their own gods (2 Kings 17) 1. _____ the LORD and _____ their own gods (2 Kings 17) 2. Heard that the exiles were the temple 2. Heard that the exiles were the temple • Tactics • Tactics 1. Let us build _____ 1. Let us build _____ Response of the Jews: *Response of the Jews*: 2. Openly _____ the work 2. Openly _____ the work 3. Hire others to ______ their purpose 3. Hire others to ______ their purpose • Response (v. 24) – the rebuilding of the temple • Response (v. 24) – the rebuilding of the temple 1. When? (vv. 5, 24) 1. When? (vv. 5, 24)

2. Why? (see also Haggai 1)

Lessons

1. If God is at work in a situation, there will be _____

- 2. What is needed?
 - Discernment
 - Courage
- 3. The work _____ stop
 - The test of a man's character...
 - It is not enough to _____ well

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