

"A Bag With Holes"

Introduction:

- A. In 586 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon burned Jerusalem and took Judah captive.
- B. In 539 B.C., Cyrus king of Persia captured Babylon and permitted willing Jews to return.
 - 1. *Ezra 1-3* documents the decree of Cyrus, a list of returning exiles, and the rebuilding efforts.
 - 2. *Ezra 4* tells the story of others who worked to discourage these restoration efforts.
 - a. As a result, the Jews laid down their tools and for 15 years went about their own business.
 - b. God sent the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to voice his displeasure (*Ezra 5:1-2*).

I. The "Hole-In-Your-Bag" Principle

- A. "Consider your ways" (*Haggai 1:2-11*).
- B. Will those things that I'm pouring into the bag of my life "abide forever" (*1 John 2:15-17*)?
- C. We brought nothing into this world, and we cannot take anything with us (*1 Timothy 6:6-12*).

II. Life _____ of _____ is a "Bag With Holes."

III. Life That _____ Around _____ is a "Bag With Holes."

IV. Life Without the _____ _____ is a "Bag With Holes."

V. Life Without _____ in _____ is a "Bag With Holes."