

# **If We Don't Build God's House, Who Will?**

***New Sanctuary Proposal***  
**Ezra 6:14; Haggai 1:2-9**  
**Anthony Grove Baptist Church**  
**Dr. Dennis E. Bean**  
**February 28, 2016**

## Ezra 6:14

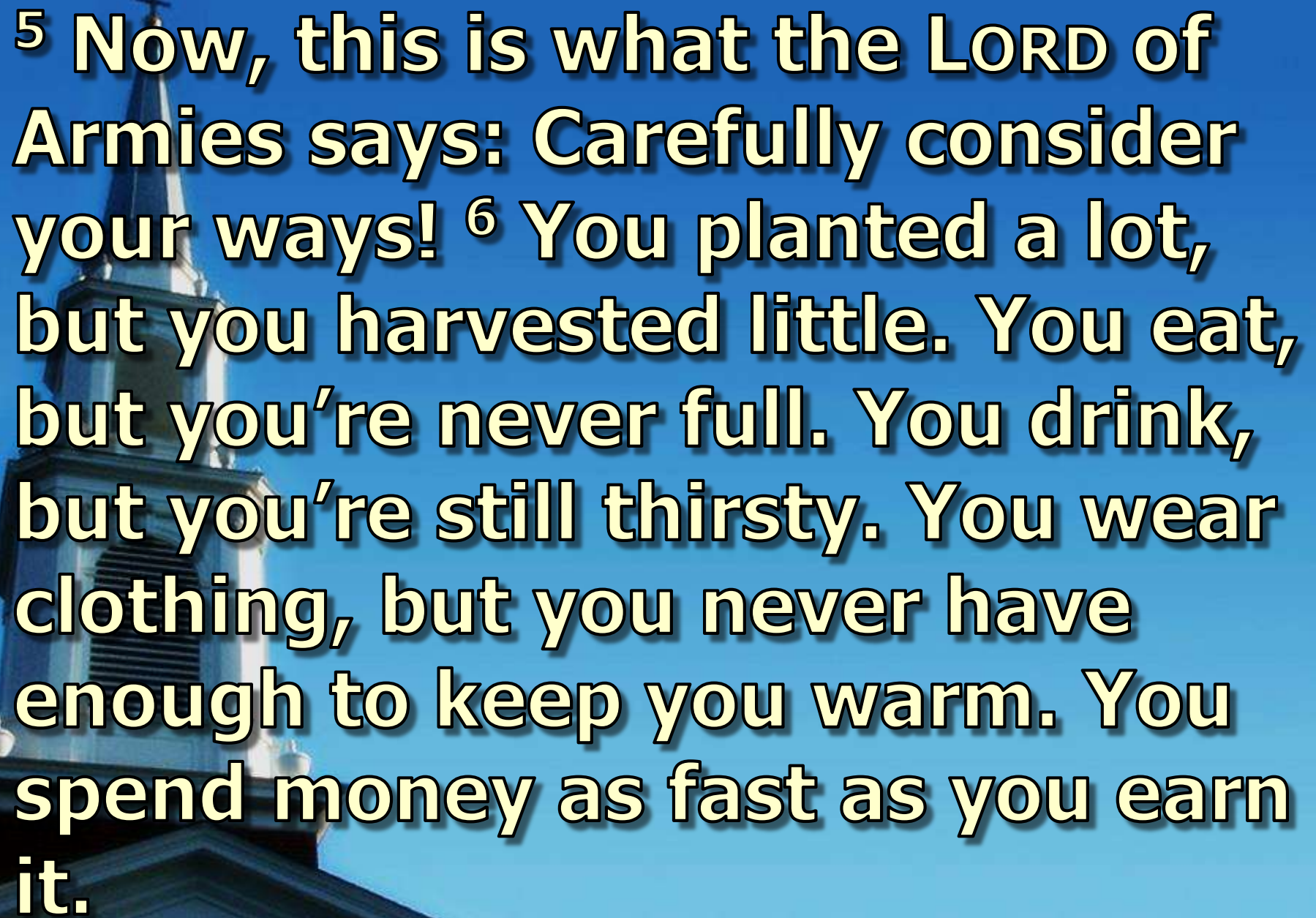
<sup>14</sup> So the Jewish elders continued their work, and they were greatly encouraged by the preaching of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah son of Iddo. The Temple was finally finished, as had been commanded by the God of Israel and decreed by Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes, the kings of Persia.-- (NLT)

A church steeple with a cross on top, set against a clear blue sky. The steeple is white with dark trim and has a small arched window. The background is a solid blue sky.

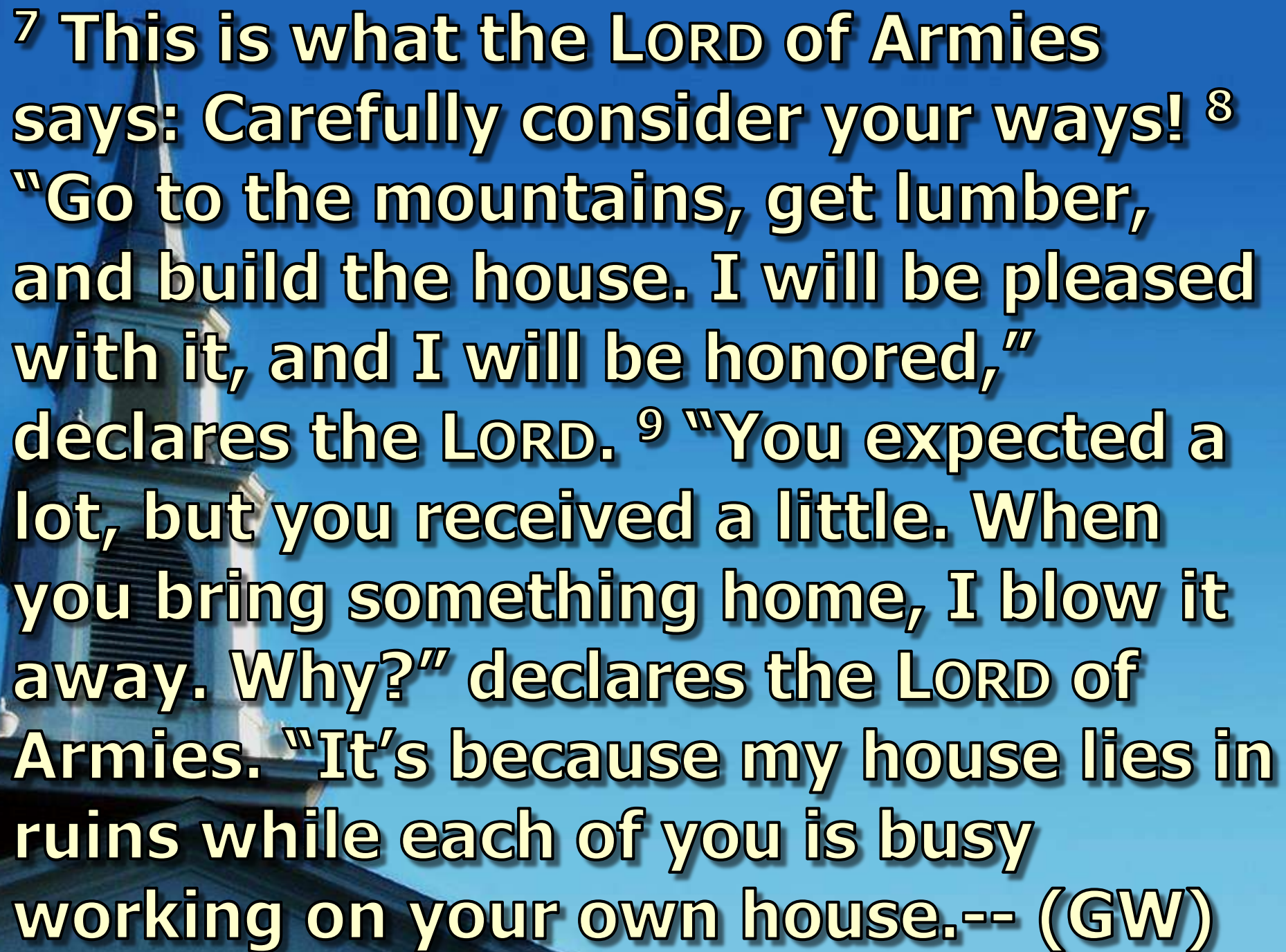
## Haggai 1:2-9

<sup>2</sup> "This is what the LORD of Armies says: These people say it's not the right time to rebuild the house of the LORD." <sup>3</sup> Then the LORD spoke his word through the prophet Haggai. He said, <sup>4</sup> "Is it time for you to live in your paneled houses while this house lies in ruins?"

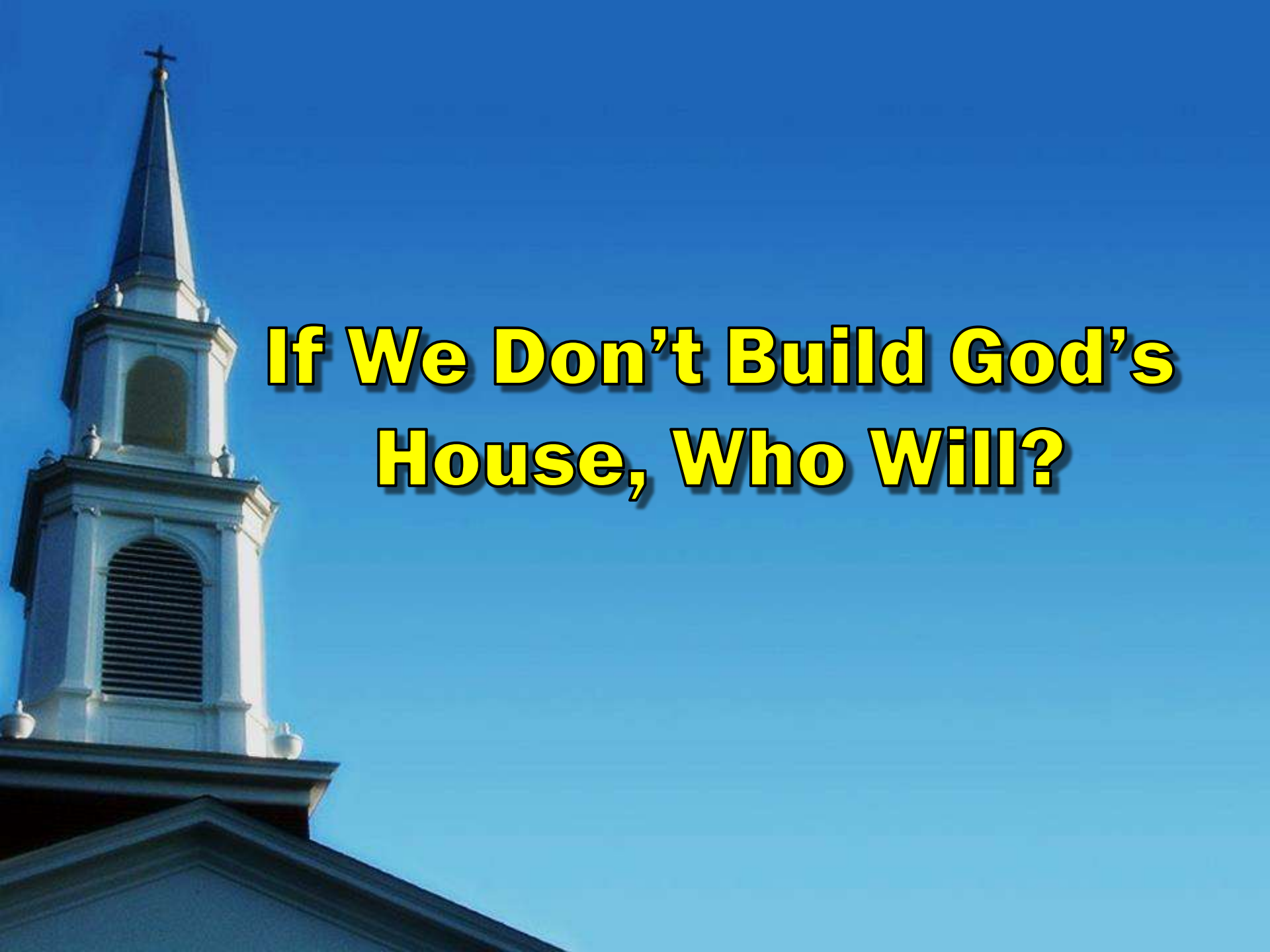


A church steeple with a cross on top is visible on the left side of the image, set against a clear blue sky. The steeple is dark in color, possibly black or dark grey, and has a series of horizontal slats or louvers near the base of the spire.

**<sup>5</sup> Now, this is what the LORD of Armies says: Carefully consider your ways! <sup>6</sup> You planted a lot, but you harvested little. You eat, but you're never full. You drink, but you're still thirsty. You wear clothing, but you never have enough to keep you warm. You spend money as fast as you earn it.**



**7 This is what the LORD of Armies  
says: Carefully consider your ways! 8  
"Go to the mountains, get lumber,  
and build the house. I will be pleased  
with it, and I will be honored,"  
declares the LORD. 9 "You expected a  
lot, but you received a little. When  
you bring something home, I blow it  
away. Why?" declares the LORD of  
Armies. "It's because my house lies in  
ruins while each of you is busy  
working on your own house.-- (GW)**



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A photograph of a church steeple with a cross on top, set against a clear blue sky. The steeple is white with dark accents and has a small arched window near the top.

# **1. Encouraged To Give God Priority.**

**Haggai 1:5<sup>5</sup> Now this  
is what the LORD  
Almighty says: "Give  
careful thought to  
your ways.-- (NIV)**

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## A. The Excuses of the People.

Haggai 1:2<sup>2</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD."-- (ESV)



## **B. The Evidence of Prophecy.**

Ezra 1:1–3<sup>1</sup> In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: <sup>2</sup> “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. <sup>3</sup> Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem.-- (ESV)

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## C. The Evasion of the Plan.

Haggai 1:4<sup>4</sup> "Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins?-- (NLT)

A photograph of a church steeple with a cross on top, set against a clear blue sky. The steeple is white with dark trim and has a bell tower section. The image is partially obscured by the text overlay.

## **Matthew 6:33**

**33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.-- (NIV)**



A photograph of a church steeple with a pointed roof and arched windows, set against a clear blue sky. The steeple is white with dark trim.

## **2. Encouraged To Claim God's Promises**

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**Haggai 1:9<sup>9</sup> You hoped for rich harvests, but they were poor. And when you brought your harvest home, I blew it away. Why? Because my house lies in ruins, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, while all of you are busy building your own fine houses.-- (NLT)**



## **2 Corinthians 9:8, 10**

**<sup>8</sup> And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.**

**2 Corinthians 9:10<sup>10</sup> For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. (NLT)**

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### **3. Encouraged To Give God Praise.**

**Haggai 1:7–8<sup>7</sup> “Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. <sup>8</sup> Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD.-- (ESV)**





# **1. We Need A Permanent Sanctuary.**

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**2 Samuel 7:1–3<sup>1</sup> When King David was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all the surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup> the king summoned Nathan the prophet. “Look,” David said, “I am living in a beautiful cedar palace, but the Ark of God is out there in a tent!” <sup>3</sup> Nathan replied to the king, “Go ahead and do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you.”-- (NLT)**

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## 2. It Is The Right Time.

**Galatians 6:9<sup>9</sup> So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.-- (NLT)**

A photograph of a church steeple with a pointed roof and arched windows, set against a clear blue sky. The steeple is white with dark trim.

### 3. To Provide Space For Enlarged Ministry.

Isaiah 54:2–3<sup>2</sup> “Enlarge your house; build an addition. Spread out your home, and spare no expense! <sup>3</sup> For you will soon be bursting at the seams (NLT)



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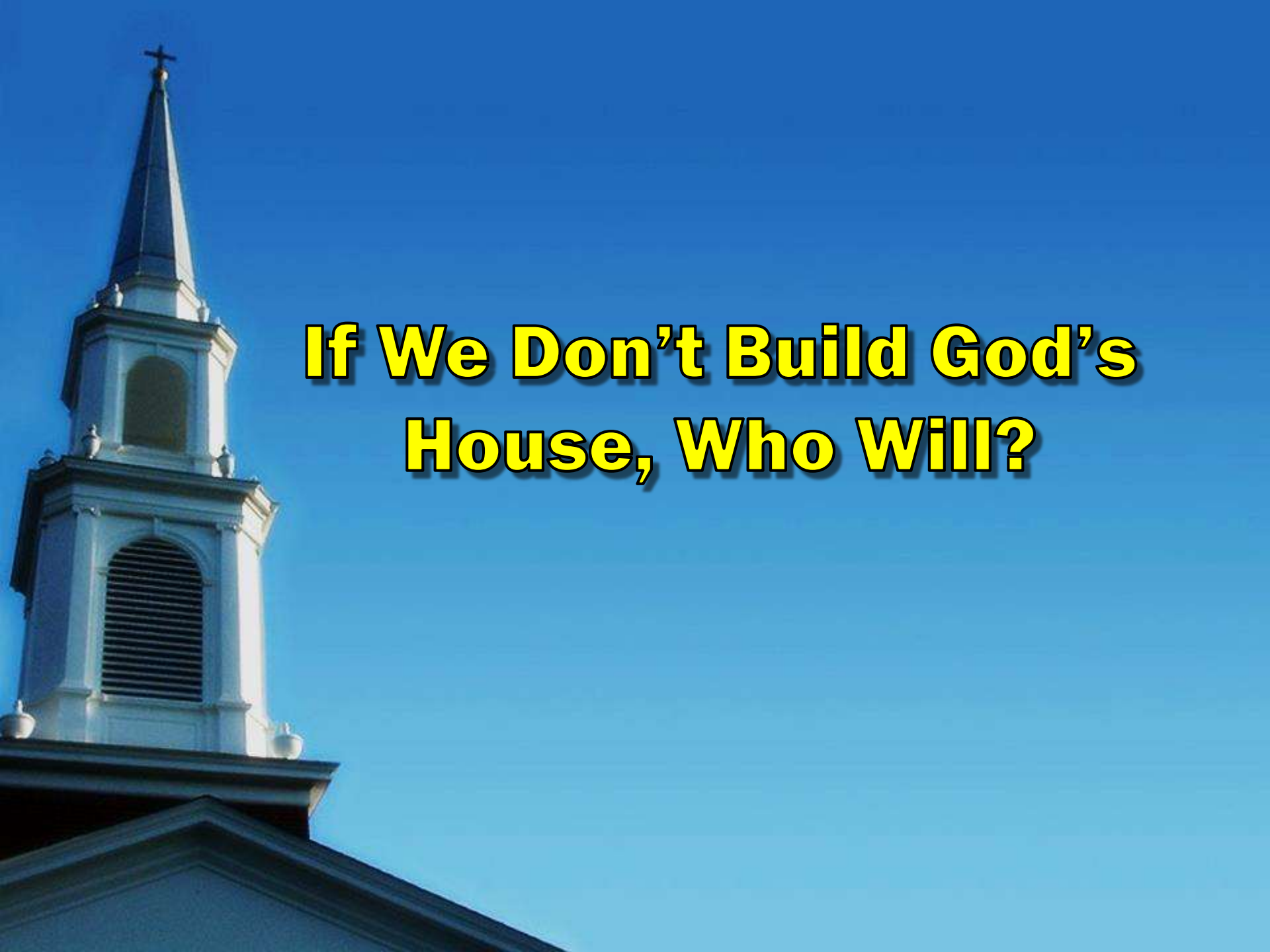
# 4. To **Honor** God With Our Best.

**Haggai 1:8<sup>8</sup> Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the LORD.-- (NIV)**

## Malachi 2:2

<sup>2</sup> If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honor my name," says the LORD Almighty, "I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to honor me.--  
(NIV)





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