



The Return Part 1

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THE RETURN

1. Return to the LORD
2. Return to Jerusalem



Exodus 19:3-4

³ And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel:

⁴ ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how **I bore you on eagles’ wings** and **brought you to Myself**.



Exodus 29:45-46

⁴⁵ I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God.

⁴⁶ And they shall know that **I am the Lord their God**, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that **I may dwell among them**. I am the Lord their God.



God's Heart

- i. I will be their God
- ii. They shall be my people
- iii. I shall dwell in their midst



Ezekiel 37:27

²⁷ My tabernacle also shall be **with them**; indeed I will be **their God**, and they shall be **My people**



Revelation 21:3

³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying,
“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He
will dwell with them, and they shall be His people.
God Himself will be with them and be their God.



RETURN

Zechariah 1:3

³ Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “**Return to Me,**” says the Lord of hosts, “and **I will return to you,**” says the Lord of hosts.



Isaiah 30:15-18

¹⁵ For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel:

“In returning and rest you shall be saved;
In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.”
But you would not,

¹⁶ And you said, “No, for we will flee on horses”—
Therefore you shall flee!
And, “We will ride on swift horses”—
Therefore those who pursue you shall be swift!



17 One thousand shall flee at the threat of one,
At the threat of five you shall flee,
Till you are left as a pole on top of a mountain
And as a banner on a hill.

18 Therefore the Lord will wait, that He may be gracious
to you;
And therefore He will be exalted, that He may have
mercy on you.
For the Lord is a God of justice;
Blessed are all those who wait for Him.



Return To The LORD

- What has the LORD been doing in these past three to four months?
- Shaking His own Church
- God took us out from a form godliness to deal with us on a personal level
- There is a call to a personal return to the LORD



a) Humble Ourselves

Don't say, I don't have much to repent of

b) Repentance is a lifestyle



1) Set Your heart To Seek God

Ezra 7:10

¹⁰ For Ezra had **prepared his heart** to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.



Daniel 10:12

¹² Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you **set your heart** to understand, and to **humble yourself** before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.



Matthew 6:21

²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



2) Humble Yourself

Malachi 3:7

⁷ Yet from the days of your fathers
You have gone away from My ordinances
And have not kept them.

Return to Me, and I will return to you,”
Says the Lord of hosts.

“But you said,
‘In what way shall we return?’



Ezekiel 33:31

³¹ So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as *My* people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain.



Amos 5:21-24

²¹ “I hate, I despise your feast days,
And I do not savor your sacred assemblies.

²² Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings,

I will not accept them,

Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings.

²³ Take away from Me the noise of your songs,
For I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments.

²⁴ But let justice run down like water,
And righteousness like a mighty stream.



1 Samuel 15:22

22 So Samuel said:

“Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,

As in obeying the voice of the Lord?

Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,



God is Patient

- God always gives time to repent
- Now is a period of grace to change
- God sent His prophets hundreds of years before the captivity
- The people didn't turn



3) Repentance is a Lifestyle

Joel 2:12

¹² “Now, therefore,” says the Lord,
“Turn to Me with all your heart,
With **fasting**, with **weeping**, and with **mourning**.”

¹³ So rend your heart, and not your garments;
Return to the Lord your God,
For He is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger, and of great kindness;
And He relents from doing harm.

