

Return To Me

June 18-19, 2022 Pastor Doug McCoy



Question: Have you moved?

Zechariah 1:3 (NIV) 3 Therefore tell the people: This is what the Lord Almighty says: **'Return to me,' declares the Lord Almighty, 'and I will return to you,' says the Lord Almighty.**

Zechariah starts with an "abstract" which states its core message. That core message is "return to me".

There are (at least) three elements to this message:

I. An _____ - Return

Return is the Hebrew word *shub*. It means "to come back". This in turn implies we can "move" or "leave".

 We can leave immediately: _____

2 Chronicles 16:12 (NIV) 12 In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was afflicted with a disease in his feet. Though his disease was severe, even in his illness he did not seek help from the Lord, but only from the physicians.


 We can leave gradually: _____

Judges 16:20 (NIV) 20 Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him.

God says leaving is possible. He is asking you to recognize if/when you have left and then **return**.

II. A _____ - To Me

God is asking us to return to Him - not to a practice, behavior, or service but to He, Himself.

 God is a _____ being; He has always been in relationship

 God _____ us to be in relationship with Him

Genesis 3:8 (NIV) - 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Exodus 4:22-23 (NIV) 22 Then say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the Lord says: **Israel is my firstborn son, 23** and I told you, "Let my son go, so he may worship me."

Matthew 6:9 (NIV) 9 "This, then, is how you should pray:
'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.'"

Other biblical terms for relationship with God: friends, brothers, family, people, come near.

God is not the means. He is the end. He is asking us to come back to that end. He is calling us to return to His **person**.

III. A _____ - And I Will Return To You

This is how God will respond to our return: He will allow it, bless it, and welcome it.

 Not all relationships have this promise

 This relationship does

Luke 15:20-24 (NIV) 20 ... "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. **21** The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' **22** But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. **23** Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. **24** For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate."

This is something we all can do. You are able to return and have God return to you. That is God's **promise**.

Bringing It Home: Zechariah's message is the Bible's message. The message is not of 66 books of different information. It is the same information presented in 66 different ways. Every book of the Bible is the Father pleading with His children to return to Him.

That leaves us with our question: Have you moved?

If you would like to Connect With Us - Text CONNECT to 614-412-2144! This Week's Bible Readings (Use the TCND App if you want to listen):

Sat Isa 49-50 Sun Isa 51-52 Mon Isa 53-54; 1 John 4

Tue Isa 55-56; 1 John 5 Wed Isa 57-58; 2 John 1

Thur Isa 59-60; 3 John 1 Fri Isa 61-62; Rev 1 Sat Isa 63-64

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