

Repentance Pt 1 Introduction: Israel our example

This is our first teaching on the topic of repentance, and associated words. This study is written from a search of scripture: the word “repent” (105 occurrences), we will cover three points- (I) Israel were to turn to the LORD with all their heart, with fasting, with weeping and mourning, and rend their heart, (ii) the prophets besought Israel to repent, and (iii) the Lord repented when Israel repented, He turned from His fierce wrath and the evil that He thought to do, because He is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness

A meaning of the word repent from scripture.

To repent is to return from their ways- Jer.15: 7- “And I will fan them with a fan in the gates of the land; I will bereave them of children, I will destroy my people, since they return not from their ways”.

Repent: means to turn, turn away

[9] Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

[10] And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not. (Jon.3: 9, 10)

To repent is to change your mind

[28] But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.

[29] He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. (Matt.21:28, 29)

There is a link between repentance and turning

“How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? [how] shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? how shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together” (Hos.11: 8).

There is link between repentance and believing- Matt.21: 32- “For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him..

In Israel’s need to turn to the LORD with all their heart, with fasting and with weeping and mourning, and rend their heart: for He is gracious and merciful and repenteth him of the evil (**reconsider the evil**)

[12] Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

[13] And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. (Joel 2: 12, 13)

The purpose of repentance - sinners would bethink themselves, acknowledge their sin, and wickedness before God and do something- turn away!

“Yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness;

The Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Israel were to turn to the LORD with all their heart, with fasting and with weeping and mourning, and rend their heart

[12] Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

[13] And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God...(Joel 2: 12, 13).

2. The prophets besought Israel to repent

Ezekiel besought Israel to repent and TURN from all your transgressions

“Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations” (Eze 14:6). See also Eze 18:30

3. The LORD repented-

* that He had made Saul king (had sorrow because He made him king, potentially pity

[11] It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the Lord all night.

[29] And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.

[35] And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the Lord repented that he had made Saul king over Israel. (1 Sam.15: 11, 29, 35).

* when Israel repented, He turned from His fierce wrath and the evil that He thought to do, because He is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness

[12] Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.

[14] And the Lord repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people. Ex.32: 12, 14. CF- Joel 2:13- "And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil".

An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

On Queen street you see many different types of people. But one thing many of them have in common with Israel is their unbelief, and so their unwillingness to repent from sin. A common response when handed a gospel tract is: I am good, or I am okay. In other words I do not acknowledge my sin and I do not believe in God. Which ever comes first, I am not sure. But logically why would anyone repent, if they did not believe there was a God that was ALL power, knowing, loving, but also a God that will, after this life, judge them for their sin according to the righteousness of Their Son? They would not!

Question to think about.

i) Why would the LORD repent? ii) How do we deal with verses that say God does not repent? iii) How do you know if a man has repented iv) What is the outcome of no repentance.

Our answer from the scriptures.

i) The LORD repented according to the multitude of his mercies- Ps.106:45 And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his mercies".

ii) God is not a man that He should repent: hath He spoken it and shall He not make it good?

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" (Num 23:19) - the context is sin, and because God is holy, righteous (Ps.145: 17) and just (Is.45: 21) and is without sin (Heb.4: 15).

iii) If a man has repented he will speak aright and will turn from his sin

"I hearkened and heard, but they spake not aright: no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle" (Jer.8: 6)- CF. Ez.33: 14- "...do that which is right and lawful"

iv) Destruction for those that believe not- in Israel- Jude 1:5- "I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not" Given the link to repent: it is also a reference to those that repented not.

Today: based on an example from scripture- Christians could be taken home early when we refuse to repent-

[1] It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

[2] And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

[5] To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (1Cor.5: 1-2, 5).

Let us learn from Israel's example- (1Cor.10: 6): repent & turn from our sin that we be not chastised by God.