



KINGS – The Price of Unrepentance

The Importance of Viewpoint and Context: The difference between 1-2 Kings and 1-2 Chronicles

The Turn

God to Solomon:

*"I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and **turn** from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there." (2 Chron 7:12-16)*

The goal is the "turn."

šûb "shoov"

Repentance – to turn back (implied, to the starting point)

"The whole of life turns on the turn." (Ann Voskamp)

Rehoboam

*"You have abandoned me, therefore, now I abandon you to Shishak [their enemy]." (v. 5)
The leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, 'The Lord is just.'" (v. 6)
"When the Lord saw that they humbled themselves..." He said, "I will not destroy them but will soon give them deliverance. My wrath will not be poured out on Jerusalem."... Because Rehoboam humbled himself, the Lord's anger **turned** from him and he was not totally destroyed. Indeed, there was some good in Judah." (2 Chron 12: 5-7, 12)*

Azariah to Asa

*“Listen to me, Asa and all Judah and Benjamin. The Lord is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you. For a long time Israel was without the true God, without a priest to teach and without the law. But in their distress they **turned** to the Lord, the God of Israel, and sought him, and he was found by them. In those days it was not safe to travel about, for all the inhabitants of the lands were in great turmoil. One nation was being crushed by another and one city by another, because God was troubling them with every kind of distress. But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.” (2 Chron 15:2-7)*

Jehoshaphat

*“Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord? Because of this, the wrath of the Lord is on you. There is, however, some good in you, for you have rid the land of the Asherah poles and have set your heart on seeking God.” (19:2-3). Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem, and he went out again among the people from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim and **“turned** the people back to the Lord, the God of their ancestors.” (19:4).*

“We have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You.” (2 Chron 20:12).

Hezekiah

*“Our parents were unfaithful; they did evil in the eyes of the Lord our God and forsook him. They **turned** their faces away from the Lord’s dwelling place and **turned** their backs on him... This is why our fathers have fallen by the sword and our sons and daughters and our wives are in captivity. Now I intend to make a covenant with the Lord, the God of Israel, so that his fierce anger will **turn** away from us.” (2 Chron 29:6-10)*

Manassah

Hezekiah’s son. The worst of all the kings – rebuilt the pagan places his father destroyed; worshipped Baals, made Asherah poles, sacrificed his children, practiced divination, witchcraft, and all other “spiritual” entities that were NOT God.

As an Assyrian prisoner, *“...he sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his ancestors. And when he prayed to him, the Lord was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord is God.” (2 Chron 33:12-13). A “turn” story!*

This looks like: *“...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways...” (2 Chron 7)*

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JOEL

REPENTANCE:

Blow the trumpet in Zion;

sound the alarm on my holy hill.

Let all who live in the land tremble,

for the day of the Lord is coming.

It is close at hand—

A day of darkness and gloom,

a day of clouds and blackness. (Joel 2:1-2)

This is a warning cry! Punishment is coming! Yet, the Lord says...

“Even now,” declares the Lord,

“return to me with all your heart,

with fasting and weeping and mourning.” (Joel 2:12)

Rend your heart

and not your garments.

Return to the Lord your God,

for he is gracious and compassionate,

slow to anger and abounding in love,

and he relents from sending calamity.

Who knows? He may turn and relent

and leave behind a blessing—

grain offerings and drink offerings

for the Lord your God. (Joel 2:13-14)

RESTORATION

Then the Lord was jealous for his land

and took pity on his people. (Joel 2:18)

“I will drive the northern horde far from you,

pushing it into a parched and barren land;

its eastern ranks will drown in the Dead Sea

and its western ranks in the Mediterranean Sea.

And its stench will go up;

its smell will rise.”(Joel 2:20)

“I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten—

the great locust and the young locust,

the other locusts and the locust swarm—

my great army that I sent among you. (Joel 2:25)

GOD’S CHARACTER

“... for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love...” (Joel 2:13)

More Examples

Zechariah 1:3: *Thus declares the Lord of hosts: Return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.' But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares the Lord.*

Jeremiah 4:1-2: *"If you, Israel, will return, then return to me," declares the Lord. "If you put your detestable idols out of my sight and no longer go astray, and if in a truthful, just and righteous way you swear, 'As surely as the Lord lives,' then the nations will invoke blessings by him and in him they will boast."*

Malachi 3:6-7: *"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts."*

Hosea 12:6: *But you must return to your God; maintain love and justice, and wait for your God always.*

Hosea 14:1-2: *"Return, Israel, to the Lord your God. Your sins have been your downfall! Take words with you and return to the Lord."*

Jeremiah 3:12-14: *"Go, proclaim this message toward the north: "Return, faithless Israel,' declares the Lord, 'I will frown on you no longer, for I am faithful,' declares the Lord, 'I will not be angry forever. Only acknowledge your guilt—you have rebelled against the Lord your God, you have scattered your favors to foreign gods under every spreading tree, and have not obeyed me,'" declares the Lord. "Return, faithless people," declares the Lord, "for I am your husband. I will choose you—one from a town and two from a clan—and bring you to Zion."*

The Conclusion of 2 Chronicles

"Furthermore, all the leaders of the priests and the people became more and more unfaithful, following all the detestable practices of the nations and defiling the temple of the Lord, which he had consecrated in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people and there was no remedy" (36:15-16).

The bookends of the story of Chronicles:

- 2 Chronicles 7:12-13: If you humble yourself and return to me, I will heal your land
- 2 Chronicles 36:15-16: God kept sending them prophets, but they didn't listen

Jeremiah: The Weeping Prophet

“When I brought your ancestors out of Egypt and spoke to them... I gave them this command: Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in obedience to all I command you, that it may go well with you. But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubborn inclinations of their evil hearts. They went backward and not forward. From the time your ancestors left Egypt until now, day after day, again and again I sent you my servants the prophets. But they did not listen to me or pay attention. They were stiff-necked and did more evil than their ancestors.’ When you tell them all this, they will not listen to you; when you call to them, they will not answer. Therefore say to them, ‘This is the nation that has not obeyed the Lord its God or responded to correction. Truth has perished; it has vanished from their lips.” (Jeremiah 7:22-28)

This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Cursed is the one who does not obey the terms of this covenant... From the time I brought your ancestors up from Egypt until today, I warned them again and again, saying, “Obey me.” But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubbornness of their evil hearts. So I brought on them all the curses of the covenant I had commanded them to follow but that they did not keep.’”(Jeremiah 11:1-8)
*So Jeremiah the prophet said to all the people of Judah and to all those living in Jerusalem: **For twenty-three years**—from the thirteenth year of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah until this very day—the word of the Lord has come to me and I have spoken to you again and again, but you have not listened. (Jeremiah 25:2-3)*

NEW TESTAMENT:

John the Baptist: Matthew 3:2

“Repent! For the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Jesus: Matthew 4:17

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

2 Corinthians 5:14 – “Christ’s love compels us...”

“We implore you on Christ’s behalf – be reconciled to God.” (v. 19)

The Price of Unrepentance = _____

The Result of Repentance = _____

(Rev 21 gives a great picture of it.)

“Come!” (Rev 22:17)