

2 Chronicles 30:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him.

Analysis

Hezekiah's invitation to separated Israel includes powerful theology: 'For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him.' The promise that repentance (shuv - return/turn) brings restoration demonstrates covenant grace. Even those already exiled can experience mercy through repentance. The divine character - gracious (channun) and merciful (rachum) - guarantees this promise. The condition 'if ye return' requires human response, but God's gracious nature makes return possible and restoration certain.

Historical Context

Hezekiah invited Northern Kingdom remnant (after Assyrian captivity of 722 BCE) to join Judah's Passover celebration (c. 715 BCE). This grace-filled invitation to apostate Israel demonstrated that repentance can restore even those under judgment.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What areas of spiritual captivity or distance from God require you to 'return to the LORD'?
2. How does God's gracious and merciful character give hope for restoration after seasons of unfaithfulness?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵיכֶם תָּשִׁיבְנָא כִּי יְהִי הַלְּבָדָל בְּנֵיכֶם וְבְנֵי אֲחִיכֶם
and your children shall return: for I will show unto you the difference between your children and the children of your brethren.

לְבָטְמִים	פְנִים	שׂוֹבֵךְ מִ	תְשׁוּבָה אֶבֶן
shall find compassion	before	them that lead them captive	For if ye turn again
H7356	H6440	H7617	H7725

אֱלֹהֵיכֶם יְהוָה הַזֶּה אַתָּה לֹא־כֵן
your God is gracious and merciful for the LORD
H3068 H430 H7349 H2587 H776 H3588 H2063 into this land

וְלֹא	יְשִׁיר	פָּנִים	מִקְמָת	אָמָן	בְּבוֹא	אַלְיוֹן
H3808	and will not turn away	before	H4480	H518	For if ye turn again	H413

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 55:7 (Grace): Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Micah 7:18 (Grace): Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.

Psalms 106:46 (Parallel theme): He made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them captives.

1 Kings 8:50 (Parallel theme): And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them:

Psalms 86:5 (Grace): For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Nehemiah 9:17 (Grace): And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.
