

Deuteronomy 30:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul;

Analysis

And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul. The promise shalt return unto the LORD introduces the crucial concept of repentance - turning back to God after turning away. The Hebrew word 'shuv' means to turn, return, repent - indicating change of direction.

The requirement to obey his voice demonstrates that genuine repentance manifests in renewed obedience. True turning to God always produces behavioral change; repentance without reformation is spurious.

The inclusiveness thou and thy children shows repentance must be corporate, not merely individual. The whole nation must turn back to God, with parents leading children in renewed covenant faithfulness.

The intensity with all thine heart, and with all thy soul demands total commitment. Halfhearted or partial repentance is insufficient - genuine turning to God involves complete devotion of entire person.

Historical Context

Israel's history shows repeated cycles of repentance and renewal - under judges, after exile, during reformations of Hezekiah and Josiah. Each genuine revival involved turning from idolatry to exclusive worship of Yahweh.

Jesus later calls for similar total commitment - loving God with all heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does the concept of returning to God teach about the nature of repentance?
2. How does obedience demonstrate genuine versus spurious repentance?
3. Why must repentance be corporate involving families, not merely individual?
4. What does wholehearted devotion look like versus halfhearted religion?
5. How do revival movements demonstrate national or corporate repentance?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁבָתָּ	עַד	יְהוָה ה	אֱלֹהֶי יְר	וְשָׁמַעְתָּ	בְּקוֹל ו
And shalt return	H5704	unto the LORD	thy God	and shalt obey	his voice
H7725		H3068	H430	H8085	H6963
ל	אֲשֶׁר י	אֲנֹכִי י	מִצִּוָּךְ	הֵי יוֹם	אֶתְּ ה
H3605	H834	H595	according to all that I command	thee this day	H859
			H6680	H3117	
וּבְנֵי יְר	בְּכָל	לְבַבְךָ	וּבְכָל	נַפְשְׁךָ:	
thou and thy children	H3605	with all thine heart	H3605	and with all thy soul	
H1121		H3824		H5315	

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 1:9 (Parallel theme): But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

Lamentations 3:40 (References Lord): Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.

Psalms 41:12 (Parallel theme): And as for me, thou upholdest me in mine integrity, and settest me before thy face for ever.

Psalms 119:80 (Parallel theme): Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed.

1 John 1:9 (Parallel theme): If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Jeremiah 3:10 (References Lord): And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 29:13 (Parallel theme): And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 4:14 (Parallel theme): O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?

Ephesians 6:24 (References Lord): Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

1 Chronicles 29:9 (References Lord): Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.

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