

# Deuteronomy 4:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice;

## Analysis

**When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days...**

The Hebrew batsar lekha (בָּצָר לְךָ, 'when tribulation comes upon you') acknowledges that suffering often precedes repentance. The phrase be'acharit hayamim (בְּאַחֲרַת הַיּוֹםִים) has both near and far horizons in prophetic usage—it refers to future times of decisive divine action, whether the Babylonian exile, the messianic age, or eschatological consummation.

Moses presents tribulation not as purposeless suffering but as the catalyst for return: veshavta (וְשָׁבָת, 'thou shalt turn/return'). The same root (shuv) means both physical return from exile and spiritual repentance—geography and theology merge. Returning to the land requires returning to the LORD; returning to God enables return to the land. The verb veshama'ta (וְשָׁמַע, 'obey his voice') shows that true repentance produces obedience, not merely emotional regret.

God's redemptive pattern emerges: blessing, unfaithfulness, discipline, tribulation, repentance, restoration. This cycle repeats throughout Israel's history and informs Christian understanding of sanctification. God uses adversity to break self-sufficiency and draw hearts back to Himself. The latter days intensify this pattern, bringing ultimate tribulation and ultimate restoration.

## Historical Context

Moses prophesies 'latter days' tribulation that would lead to repentance and return to God. Speaking around 1406 BC, he looks forward across centuries to future events. This verse has been interpreted by various traditions as referring to the Babylonian exile, the inter-testamental period, and eschatological times.

## Related Passages

## **John 3:16 — God's love and salvation**

## **Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith**

## Study Questions

1. How has tribulation in your own life served as a catalyst for spiritual return and deeper dependence on God?
2. What does it mean that true repentance involves not just feeling sorry but actually obeying God's voice?

## Interlinear Text

בְּצִרְעָה	לְכַדְּבָרִים	בְּלֹא	וְמִצְאָה	וְבְּלֹבֶד	בְּכָל	וְבְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל
When thou art in tribulation		H3605	are come		H1697	and all these things		
H6862			H4672			H1697		
בְּאַחֲרִית	בְּנִמְיָם	וְשָׁבֵט	עַד	יְהִי הָ				
בְּאַחֲרִית	בְּנִמְיָם	וְשָׁבֵט	עַד	יְהִי הָ				
upon thee even in the latter	days	if thou turn	H5704	to the LORD				
H319	H3117	H7725	H3068					
אֱלֹהָים	וְשָׁמְעָת	בְּקָלָן						
thy God	and shalt be obedient	unto his voice						
H430	H8085	H6963						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 23:20** (References Lord): The anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly.

**Isaiah 1:19** (Parallel theme): If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

**Jeremiah 7:23** (References God): But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

**Genesis 49:1** (Parallel theme): And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.

**Deuteronomy 31:29** (References Lord): For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger through the work of your hands.

**Hosea 3:5** (References God): Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.

**Numbers 24:20** (Parallel theme): And when he looked on Amalek, he took up his parable, and said, Amalek was the first of the nations; but his latter end shall be that he perish for ever.

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