

“COME, LET US RETURN TO THE LORD!”

Hosea 6:1-3

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INTRODUCTION

The Lord loves us—His people, just as He loves His ancient people of Israel. A moth may consume, rot may decay, a lion may tear—but none of them will ever bother to mend the damage they have done (5:12, 14). However, the Lord returns to His place (v. 15) and waits for His people to respond to His work of chastisement. When we admit our guilt and deserved punishment, and when we turn to “seek His face,” He will restore us to wonderful and amazing fellowship with Himself!

WE MUST SEEK GOD AND HE WILL BLESS US!

I. WE MUST SEEK GOD.

A. Return to Him (v. 1): “Come let us return to the Lord.”

These words of Israel in the future day of her repentance are closely connected with 5:15: “In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.” Note in v. 15 the Lord said that He would **return** to His place; now here His people **return** to the Lord.

B. Live before Him (2)

C. Know Him—Press on to know Him (3)

- The knowledge of God must be the object of our fervent pursuit.
- Pursue as a hunter his prey—*persistent and diligent search*.
- See Paul’s expression of this in Phil. 3:8-14.
- Knowing God involves “knowing His ways, his purposes, his loving requirements, and his promises.”
- Such is the basis for faith and obedience—trust and obey.
- Israel had lost this knowledge (4:1), and they were being destroyed because of it (4:6).

As the Believer genuinely seeks the Lord, the Lord responds in abundantly blessing him.

II. GOD WILL BLESS US.

A. He Restores (1)

1. He Heals those who are torn (cf. 5:14)

- Unlike a lion! In justice He had disciplined (cf. Lev. 26 and Dt. 28).
- He had pledged to restore them if they sought Him with all their hearts (Dt. 30:1-10).

2. He bandages those who are wounded
 - Once again, human help could not do this (5:13).
 - In Deut. 32:39 He stated that He is the one who both wounds and then heals.
 - In Ex. 15:26 He is the great physician who keeps them well.
- B. He Revives and Raises Up (2)
1. The verbs imply a restoration to life—even though the figures in v. 1 can speak of mending serious wounds.
 2. The time references (“two days” and “the third day”) show that God’s response will be **sure** and **quick**. They will wait only a short time (from the divine perspective!) for relief.
 3. This passage must not be regarded as a reference to the resurrection of Christ after 3 days.
 - This cannot refer primarily to the return from captivity—for they are not restored to live before Him! The passage refers to a time after Israel’s conversion and must therefore include faith in their true Messiah. Yet, His death and resurrection are **not** directly mentioned here.
 - The literal resurrection of the bodies of believers is not referred to directly—but the truth is referred to elsewhere (Dan. 12:2; Job 14:12; Is. 26:19; etc.) and is implied in the raising of the nation.
- C. He Refreshes (3)
- His refreshment of His people is as certain as the cycle of the sun (the dawn) and as the seasons of the year (early and latter rains—fall and spring).
1. He “goes forth” on behalf of His people
 2. He “comes to” his people.

CONCLUSION

The Lord restores, revives, and refreshes His people when they turn to Him and seek Him with their whole hearts. Are you “torn”, “wounded,” or “slain”?

Return to the Lord; **Press on to know** the Lord.

He will **heal**, He will **bandage**, He will **revive**, He will **raise us up**, He will **refresh** us as the fall and spring rains. The fact that He will do all of this is as **certain** as the dawn coming forth each morning. This dawn brings **light** and **refreshment** also to His people.

What are we waiting for?