

Theme: CALL TO RETURN TO BETHEL

Memory Verse: *Genesis 35:1 “And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother.”*

Texts: Isaiah 52:1-5; 48:16-20

It was important for God to remind Jacob of his earlier encounter with Him. The best way was to ask him to return to Bethel. When God asked Jacob to leave Laban and return home, the destination God had in mind was not Shechem. Jacob was already getting mixed up in the land — Dinah’s adventures and Simeon and Levi’s murderous acts revealed that Jacob was losing grips. The call was timely and necessary. God, over the ages, has been calling his people to return to Him. God at different times pleaded earnestly with the children of Israel to return to Him. He did this out of love for them.

The sovereignty of God was clearly demonstrated here as He directly initiated the burden for revival in Jacob by calling him to retrace his steps. The call was for him to dwell there. A believer should permanently dwell in God’s presence as in a home and not as in a hotel. He was also to build a permanent altar there for perpetual sacrifice. God had, at sundry times, directly set men’s soul on the path of revival. For instance, John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, was the harbinger of an unparalleled revival that ushered hordes of Jews into God’s kingdom (Luke 3:3-10). This scenario had been prophesied about 800 years before the actual event (Isaiah 40:3-5). The revival witnessed by the apostles had earlier been prophesied by Joel (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:1-47).

Most times, God would respond to the intercessory prayers of a concerned saint who is dissatisfied with the spiritual condition prevalent in his own life and in his community. There were people like David, who cried unto God for the revival of the Jewish believers (Psalm 85:1-6). Habakkuk interceded for the revival of the nation of Israel (Habakkuk 3:1-2). Elijah prayed for spiritual renewal of Israel (1 Kings 18:36-39). Hosea mobilized Israel to call upon God for spiritual renewal (Hosea 10:12). God would promptly respond to any believer or Christian group who, in prayers, would covet a return to their fountain-head. This, however, true revival is commonly preceded by the payment of certain price.

	DAILY BIBLE READING	
	MORNING	EVENING
SUNDAY	Amos 1	Amos 2
MONDAY	Amos 3	Amos 4
TUESDAY	Amos 5	Amos 6
WEDNESDAY	Amos 7	Amos 8
THURSDAY	Amos 9	Obadiah 1
FRIDAY	Jonah 1	Jonah 2
SATURDAY	Jonah 3	Jonah 4