

Zechariah 1:3

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40 DAYS TO 40 DAYS

Sept 25- Nov. 3rd



THE RETURN

PREPARE...CONSECRATE...OBEY

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- **Hosea 14:1** Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for your sins have brought you down.
- **Isaiah 30:15** This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: “Only in returning to me and resting in me will you be saved. In quietness and confidence is your strength. But you would have none of it.
- **Hosea 6:1** “Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces; now he will heal us. He has injured us; now he will bandage our wounds.
- **Haggai 2:17** I sent blight and mildew and hail to destroy everything you worked so hard to produce. Even so, you refused to return to me, says the LORD.

- **Zechariah 1:3** Therefore, say to the people, ‘This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies says: Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.’
- **Malachi 3:7** Ever since the days of your ancestors, you have scorned my decrees and failed to obey them. Now return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. “But you ask, ‘How can we return when we have never gone away?’
- **Nehemiah 1:9** But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honored.’



"Without God, there is no virtue, because there's no prompting of the conscience. Without God, we're mired in the material, that flat world that tells us only what the senses perceive. Without God, there is a coarsening of the society. And without God, democracy will not and cannot long endure. If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

Ronald Reagan
August 23, 1984

40 DAYS TO 40 DAYS

1. **PREPARATION:** Joshua 1:11 (NLT) — “Go through the camp and tell the people to get their provisions ready. In three days you will cross the Jordan River and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you.”
 - A. **Body:** *1 Corinthians 9:27 I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.*
 - B. **Heart/Soul:** (Mind, Will & Emotions): Seek God to reveal areas of heart that need to be addressed. Offenses, attitudes, addictions, personal agendas, etc. Recognize unhealthy habits.
 - C. **Spirit:** *1 Timothy 4:8 “Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better...* Spiritual Disciplines

40 DAYS TO 40 DAYS

2. **CONSECRATION:** Joshua 3:5 (ESV) — Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.”
 - a. **Consecrate:** separate as holy, purify; dedicate to service and loyalty to God
 - a. A commitment of loyalty, service and dedication to God for His will and purposes; to remove from everyday or common use
 - b. A commitment to remove anything that defiles or distracts
- ***Joshua 7:13 (AMP) — 13 Up, sanctify (set apart for a holy purpose) the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow; for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: There are accursed things in the midst of you, O Israel. You can not stand before your enemies until you take away from among you the things devoted [to destruction].***

40 DAYS TO 40 DAYS

3. **OBEDIENCE** Joshua 3:6 (NLT) — In the morning Joshua said to the priests, “Lift up the Ark of the Covenant and lead the people across the river.” And so they started out and went ahead of the people.
- a. Ark represents the Presence of the Lord. The people were called to obediently follow the Presence of the Lord
 - b. No personal or hidden agendas or motives
 - c. Follow the Lord in obedience to His Word.
 - d. Daily putting one foot in front of the other and walk in obedience
 - e. “doing the next right thing”

WHY FAST? (Bill Bright Ministries)

- Fasting was an expected discipline in both the Old and New Testament eras. For example, Moses fasted at least two recorded forty-day periods. Jesus fasted 40 days and reminded His followers to fast, “when you fast,” not if you fast.
- Fasting and prayer can restore the loss of the “first love” for your Lord and result in a more intimate relationship with Christ.
- Fasting is a biblical way to truly humble yourself in the sight of God (Psalm 35:13; Ezra 8:21). King David said, “I humble myself through fasting.”
- Fasting enables the Holy Spirit to reveal your true spiritual condition, resulting in brokenness, repentance, and a transformed life.

WHY FAST? (Bill Bright Ministries)

- The Holy Spirit will quicken the Word of God in your heart and His truth will become more meaningful to you!
- Fasting can transform your prayer life into a richer and more personal experience.
- Fasting can result in a dynamic personal revival in your own life—and make you a channel of revival to others.
- Fasting and prayer are the only disciplines that fulfill the requirements of II Chronicles 7:14: “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”