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The Great Return

Returning, Being Restored, Or Coming Back, Doesn't Always Mean To Something Familiar

Isaiah 43:18-19 - *But forget all that-it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. ¹⁹ For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.*

- 1) Forget The Failures Of The Past.**
- 2) To Speak About Him In The Present.**
- 3) Declare His Promises For The Future.**

A Great Return Involves Caring

1. He Cared Enough To Ask.

Nehemiah 1:1-3 - *In late autumn, in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was at the fortress of Susa. ² Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem. ³ They said to me, "Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."*

Jeremiah 15:5 - *Who will feel sorry for you, Jerusalem? Who will weep for you? Who will even bother to ask how you are?*

2. He Cared Enough To Weep.

Nehemiah 1:4 - *When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven.*

Psalms 30:5 - *For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime! Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.*

3. He Cared Enough To Pray.

Nehemiah 1:5-10 - *Then I said, "O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unfailing love with those who love him and obey his commands, ⁶ listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel. I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned!" ⁷ We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses. ⁸ "Please remember what you told your servant Moses: 'If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations. 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.' ¹⁰ "The people you rescued by your great power and strong hand are your servants.*

2 Chronicles 7:14 - *Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.*

4. He Cared Enough To Step Up.

Nehemiah 1:11 - *O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me." In those days I was the king's cup-bearer.*

Ephesians 3:20 - *Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.*

It All Started With A Person Who Cared