

Bring Them Back

We've all had weak or wavering moments in our walk with God—the valleys where our heart has been unfaithful or where we've merely been lukewarm for too long. **What was it that brought you back into an abiding relationship with Him?**

Zechariah 10 shares some beautiful messages about God bringing His people back to Him. Read this chapter now slowly and take note of the main messages.

1. God Calls His People to Seek Him as the True Source (vv. 1–2)

***Dependence on the LORD, not substitutes* Zechariah 10:1–2**

“Ask the LORD for rain in the time of the latter rain...For the idols speak delusion...”

Zechariah 10:1-2 (NKJV) “Ask the LORD for rain In the time of the latter rain. The LORD will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, Grass in the field for everyone. (2) For the idols speak delusion; The diviners envision lies, And tell false dreams; They comfort in vain. Therefore the people wend their way like sheep; They are in trouble because there is no shepherd.”

Key emphasis:

- God invites His people to ask Him directly for blessing
- False sources (idols, divination, empty leadership) produce:
 - Deception
 - False comfort
 - Directionless living

Spiritual lesson: *Blessing flows from prayerful dependence, not religious substitutes.*

2. God's Anger Is Against False Shepherds, Not the Sheep (vv. 3–5)

Leadership accountability and divine intervention

Zechariah 10:3–5 “My anger is kindled against the shepherds...For the LORD of hosts will visit His flock...”

Zechariah 10:3-5 (NKJV) “(3) “My anger is kindled against the shepherds, And I will punish the goatherds. For the LORD of hosts will visit His flock, The house of Judah, And will make them as His royal horse in the battle. (4) From him comes the cornerstone, From him the tent peg, From him the battle bow, From him every ruler together. (5) They shall be like mighty men, Who tread down their enemies In the mire of the streets in the battle. They shall fight because the LORD is with them, And the riders on horses shall be put to shame.”

Key emphasis:

- God rebukes leaders who mislead and neglect His people
- He personally visits His flock to restore dignity and strength
- From Judah will come:
 - The cornerstone
 - The tent peg

- The battle bow

Spiritual lesson: *When human leadership fails, God raises divine leadership.*

3. God Promises Restoration, Strength, and Victory (vv. 6–7)

Grace restores what discipline corrected - Zechariah 10:6–7

“I will strengthen the house of Judah...They shall be like mighty men...”

Zechariah 10:6-7 (NKJV) “(6) “I will strengthen the house of Judah, And I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back, Because I have mercy on them. They shall be as though I had not cast them aside; For I am the LORD their God, And I will hear them. (7) Those of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, And their heart shall rejoice as if with wine. Yes, their children shall see it and be glad; Their heart shall rejoice in the LORD.”

Key emphasis:

- Restoration is rooted in God’s compassion
- God reverses rejection and weakness
- The restored people experience:
 - Strength
 - Joy
 - Courage

Spiritual lesson: *God does not merely forgive—He restores usefulness and joy.*

4. God Regathers His People and Reclaims Their Identity (vv. 8–12)

Redemption leads to multiplication and renewal

Zechariah 10:8–12 “I will whistle for them and gather them...I will strengthen them in the LORD.”

Zechariah 10:8-12 (NKJV) “(8) I will whistle for them and gather them, For I will redeem them; And they shall increase as they once increased. (9) “I will sow them among the peoples, And they shall remember Me in far countries; They shall live, together with their children, And they shall return. (10) I will also bring them back from the land of Egypt, And gather them from Assyria. I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon, Until no more room is found for them. (11) He shall pass through the sea with affliction, And strike the waves of the sea: All the depths of the River shall dry up. Then the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, And the scepter of Egypt shall depart. (12) “So I will strengthen them in the LORD, And they shall walk up and down in His name,” Says the LORD.”

Key emphasis:

- God actively gathers His scattered people
- Redemption results in:
 - Increase
 - Remembrance of the LORD
 - Renewed strength in covenant identity

Spiritual lesson: *Those whom God redeems, He regathers—and those He regathers, He strengthens.*

In a practical sense, knowing how to relate to, and interact with, a loved one who has walked away from a relationship with the Lord can be challenging. You might wonder how things could have been different for

a different outcome; you might wonder how to interact with them now that they have a different worldview; and you might feel frustrated and helpless about the poor decisions they may still be making. These thoughts will always impact how you treat your loved one, and it's therefore so important to live and speak from the overflow of your personal time with your Savior.

Luke 22:31-32 (NKJV) “And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. (32) But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”