

Yom T'ruah

Jim Robeson

10/02/2024

Yom T'ruah, (the day of sounding of trumpets, the festival of trumpets), this first day of Tishri is also called “Rosh HaShanah,” the head of the Year or New Year.

It is a new beginning for all that are called to gather and repent before G-d , to come before Him, repent of their sins, and ask His forgiveness upon their lives. This is a time that if one has been thinking about the direction that their life has been going and maybe things just haven't seemed to be heading in a right direction, it might be time to consider their interactions with G-d or lack thereof.

Life itself in a world where darkness abounds and can affect even the most devoted to G-d's ways and commandments can make it difficult to walk upright before Him.

It is a spiritual awakening, a time to take account of one's life before their creator. Having a fallen nature as a physical being we get caught up in the problems of everyday life and have a tendency to forget all that we are blessed with and may often get outside of G-d's will.

And when confronted with those problems we forget the teachings and warnings from our Lord, which then may cause us to act as those of the world act.

Desires of the flesh, anger, loss of self-control just to name a few, and if these things are allowed to go unchecked, one may eventually slip further into even greater sin.

But G-d, being who He is, has given a way to reconcile us back to Him even when we fall. How good is that. No such thing with man.

What is Repentance? Now that is a question none of us should ever have to

ask each other, but what about those that are seeking the ways of G-d or those who refuse to even acknowledge that there is a creator. What about family, friends or even a stranger, what would you tell that individual who wants to turn their life around.

Repentance is a turning from sin. Think of it as a u-turn of one's life and with faith—is part of living a Christian life as G-d intended. Repentance is a key component of our initial turning from sin to Christ but is also a necessary part of the ongoing Christian life. Emphasis on ongoing, it is a journey a process to become one with G-d, just as Adam and Eve were prior to their fall.

Biblical sorrow for sin is associated with repentance, and it is understandable that repentance is at times accompanied by a deep and heartfelt emotion, repentance is not necessarily tied to a certain type or kind of emotion. Repentance is best seen as including both intellectual and effective components.

Intellectual because one must realize and understand that something is lacking in their life for happiness, and an effective course change that will affect that which is preventing them from reaching that goal.

“Repent” or “repented” is listed how many times within the context of the Bible? Not sure, don't worry about it. There doesn't seem to be a consensus on that but according to comparable sources it occurs thirteen times in the Old Testament. The word “repentance” appears twenty times in the New Testament. The verb “repent” appears twenty-seven times in the New Testament.

Two words from the Old Testament we should take note of, *shuv* and *naham*. *Shuv* can be translated “to turn,” “to turn back,” “to turn around.” It shows at times a kind of complete heart change and we will come to see in the word of G-d.

Shuv is used to denote turning one's heart and confessing perverseness and wickedness as we see in

1 Kings chapter 8 versus 46 through 53

Now this is Soloman speaking to G-d.

46When they sin against You—for there is no one who does not sin—and You become angry with them and deliver them to an enemy who takes them as captives to his own land, whether far or near, **47**and when they come to their senses in the land to which they were taken, and they repent and plead with You in the land of their captors, saying, ‘We have sinned and done wrong; we have acted wickedly,’ **48**and when they return to You with all their heart and soul in the land of the enemies who took them captive, and when they pray to You in the direction of the land that You gave to their fathers, the city You have chosen, and the house I have built for Your Name, **49**then may You hear from heaven, Your dwelling place, their prayer and petition, and may You uphold their cause. **50**May You forgive Your people who have sinned against You and all the transgressions they have committed against You, and may You grant them compassion in the eyes of their captors to show them mercy. **51**For they are Your people and Your inheritance; You brought them out of Egypt, out of the furnace for iron. **52**May Your eyes be open to the pleas of Your servant and of Your people Israel, and may You listen to them whenever they call to You. **53**For You, O Lord GOD, as Your inheritance, have set them apart from all the peoples of the earth, as You spoke through Your servant Moses when You brought our fathers out of Egypt.”

(see also) 2Chron. 6:37; Psa. 7:12; Isa. 1:27; Jer. 5:3; Ezek. 14:6; 18:30).

Naham (a verb) has a number of meanings: “to sigh, to be sorry, to pity, to console, or to avenge, to comfort, to repent.”

God “relents” or “repents” of his decision to make man on the earth, **5**Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great upon the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was altogether evil all the time. **6**And the LORD regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. (Gen. 6:5-6)

Although G-d regretted that He created man on earth, He also grieved because He had to destroy part of His creation.

Naham when used as a verb is also used when God is said not to repent

(Num. 23:19) or to have regret (1Sam. 15:29).

G-d is not a man, He is perfect, infallible, He does not make mistakes only man makes mistakes. Of which there are consequences for man.

We see from the world of man the darkness, the wickedness that is committed by those that sin. If anyone questions that, just watch the evening news. We are witnesses of Genesis 6:5-6 24/7 in our time.

One's prayer life should become strong throughout the year as one's faith should be also. But sometime, somewhere not being perfect in our nature, we make mistakes. We should be quick to turn around and ask forgiveness from whoever we may have offended or hurt due to our actions and, or words, there by correcting ourselves so that we may not have to be corrected by G-d.

But as we know, pride, fear, whatever stands in our way of asking forgiveness; may slip our minds. Or it could just be that one might be mule-headed.

Until G-d; hopefully comes along and reminds us of our transgressions. He corrects us, disciplines us, spanks us until we turn around and come back to Him, in proper worship and humbled by His love for us and do that which is right.

G-d has given us this festival to take an assessment of ourselves. A serious assessment to correct our behavior, our misdeeds, our mindsets, and make amends with whomever or whatever we may be guilty of.

And sometimes He may place it upon your heart to make amends even if you are not at fault. Love conquers all. No, He wouldn't do that, Yes, He would. And some of us have had that conversation with Him.

And why would G-d do that: simply to stop the problem from doing any further damage to not only oneself but another.

We can hold on to guilt, anger, hurt, misunderstandings, but what will that

accomplish? Nothing.

Holding on to those things will only separate one from not only whom we know here and now, but also separate us from G-d. Driving us further away from G-d's purpose for our life with Him.

Recall earlier at the beginning of this message I spoke of happiness in one's life. How do we accomplish that in the world that we live in.

From Rev. Billy Graham:

The Pursuit of Happiness; from Truth for Each Day.

“King Soloman was convinced he knew how to find happiness- and because he had vast resources at his command, he was able to pursue it. Wealth, fame, pleasure, power, lavish houses, a reputation for wisdom you name it, King Soloman achieved it. And yet after gaining everything he had ever wanted, he reluctantly concluded that his life was still empty and without meaning. His search for lasting happiness had failed, and his soul was still empty.

“This is a common story. Many people are in danger of making the same mistake King Soloman made convinced that the things of this world will bring happiness and peace and pursuing them with vigor.

“Don't be deceived; they never will. And the reason is because we were made to know God. Later, King Soloman realized this. He should have known it sooner; after all his father, David, was a man after God's own heart, and Soloman himself had vowed to live according to God's wisdom.

“Don't be misled (even as the wise king was), but make Christ the center and foundation of your life beginning today.

“The world makes a lot of empty promises concerning

happiness—what it looks like and how to obtain it. But true happiness is really called joy, and it comes to those who delight in the things of the Lord and to those who meditate on God's Word and obey it!”

Closing word.

Count it as all gain knowing the word of G-d at all times even if you are being corrected by Him. Your life has purpose in the service of G-d. And to that we say Amen!