



The Return

Ezekiel 11:17-20



When We Return

Ezekiel 11:17-20





When We Return

17 Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "I will **gather you from the peoples and **assemble you** out of the countries among which **you have been scattered**, and I will give you the land of Israel."**

- Physical fulfillment was **hope** for them (**Micah 2:12**)
- Spiritual fulfillment is **hope** for us (**Luke 13:34**)
- We've "**been scattered**" but looking forward with **hope** to once again "**gather**" together and "**assemble**"

When We Return

18 *When they come there, they will **remove** all its **detestable things** and all its **abominations** from it.*

- Turn aside from immorality, injustice, and idolatry
- We've had time to reflect, re-prioritize
- We've faced new challenges
- We've been reminded of old challenges
- What will we **remove**?

When We Return

19 And I will give them *one heart*, and put *a new spirit* within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh

- ***one*** - newfound determination for unity
- ***heart*** - based upon and demonstrated in love
- ***a new spirit*** that will put that new heart into action
- God will “*give*” and “*put*” but it is **conditional** (**18:31-32**)

When We Return

20 that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God.

- obedience proves, demonstrates and completes faith

“what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

- Act toward God and man according to the divine standard
- Treat **everyone** with compassion and mercy
- Live in submission to and in the service of God

When We Return

17 Therefore say, *“Thus says the Lord GOD, “I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries among which you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.””*

- There's one final *“gathering”* we don't want to miss...
- **2 Thess. 2:1**
- **1 Thess. 4:15-18**

