

JEREMIAH, PART 1 (RETURN TO ME)
PROGRAM 6 (#912006)
WEEK 2 (912302)
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P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

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SERIES: Jeremiah, Part 1 (Return To Me)
TITLE: Program 6 – Return Faithless One!

MONDAY

OPEN

Is there something going on in your life, Beloved, and you know that it is wrong? You are doing something, and you know you shouldn't be doing it. It's got you in its grip, it's got you in its power, and you know that it is not pleasing to God. What are you going to do? Do you think that God is mad at you, and He is going to walk away? Well listen very carefully, He is not pleased. But He says, **“Return [to Me,] O faithless [one and] I will heal your faithlessness....” (Jeremiah 3:22)**

PART ONE

In Jeremiah chapter 3, verse 22 God says, **“Return [to Me] O faithless [one and] I will heal your unfaithfulness....” (Jeremiah 3:22)** I can't tell you, Beloved, how excited I am about this week's study. We are going to look at Jeremiah chapter 3 and Jeremiah chapter 4. Do you know what's going to happen as we look at these two chapters? I promise you that if you

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will listen carefully, if you won't miss a single precept that we lay down, a single truth from God's Word, what's going to happen is if you have what we call sometimes a besetting sin, what is a besetting sin? A besetting sin is something that has its grip on you and won't let you go. It's something that you are doing that you know is wrong, that disgusts you, and yet you keep on doing it. And I promise you, that if you'll listen carefully to His precepts for life from Jeremiah chapter 3 and Jeremiah chapter 4 then what's going to happen to you, Beloved, is you are going to know that God can heal you, that God can restore you, that God can liberate you. And He can do it if you will just do what He says. So in this week I'm going to show you why they are in the trouble that they are in. You're going to see why you're in the trouble that you're in. I'm going to show you how to get out of that trouble, how to turn around, how to return to God so that God can heal your faithlessness. So this is what we are going to do, and I asked you to read Jeremiah chapter 3 and Jeremiah chapter 4 so that you could go through these two chapters. And I could come along, and take what you've read, and tie it together for you. So I would urge you to get the notes, I would urge you to get this whole thing and listen to it on a CD and share it with others. I would urge you to go to preceptsforlife.com. That's the way that you can get in touch with us. And there you can download a study guide. You can go deep into the Word of God. [You can know truth, and the truth can set you free.] (PARAPHRASE, John 8:32) Well, we are on the third chapter of Jeremiah. And as we look at this book, one of the keywords in the book of Jeremiah is the word "return." I want us to start with Jeremiah chapter 3, verse 1, **"God says, 'If a husband divorces his wife and she goes from him and belongs to another man will he still return to her? Will not that land be completely polluted...?'" (Jeremiah 3:1)** So there's that word "return." When you get to Jeremiah chapter 4 it opens up this way, **"'If you will return, O Israel,' declares the LORD, 'Then you should return to Me....'" (Jeremiah 4:1)** Now that word "return" is the word "shub", "S-H-U-B", "S-H-U-B." And it's a very significant word. It is a verb, and it is

used 1,050 times in the Old Testament. You say, “But Kay that’s the Old Testament. The Old Testament is gone. The Old Testament is past. We don’t have any use for the Old Testament today. We are Christians. We live in the New Testament.” I want to tell you something, if you are living in the New Testament, and you don’t know the Old Testament, you’re missing God. You are missing the character of God, the attributes of God, the ways of God, and understanding of God. You haven’t got a whole and true picture apart from the Old Testament. And in Romans chapter 15, if you’ll go there in Romans chapter 15:4, God tells us what the Old Testament does in our lives. He says in Romans chapter 15, verse 4, “**...whatever was written in earlier times...**,” in other words in the Old Testament. He says, “**...was written for our instruction, so that [we] through perseverance and...encouragement of the Scriptures...might have hope.**” (Romans 15:4) So He says, ‘Okay, I’ve written the Old Testament, and that Old Testament is not outdated. It is for your instruction.’ In other words, you can go to the Old Testament, and you can see precepts for life. You can learn truths that will help you today; today as a wife, today as a mother, today as a husband, today as a father, today as a businessman. And you know what? It has the answers for those sins that have gotten a hold of you, for those habits of your life, for those things that you are doing. And you may be doing them in secret, and yet they’ve got a grip on you. As I was teaching this lesson here to our Precept Upon Precept people, and they do five hours of homework a week. And this is every Tuesday here at the ministry, and so if you are ever coming through Chattanooga we would invite you to join us. But a woman came up to me, and she said, “Oh, this lesson was for me.” She said, “My son, my 14 year-old son is caught in pornography. And, I mean, he is caught. He is ensnared.” Can God set Him free? Yes. Does he need to be set free? Oh yes! Because what he is doing is a sin. So it may be pornography for you. It may be an attraction to another person that you shouldn’t have, or a person of the same sex that you shouldn’t have, or an attraction to the things of this world that are gripping you. Or a passion that

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is keeping you from the Word of God and over and over you are convicted: I've got to know God better, I've got to serve Him better, but you are so entangled. You are so busy. You are going after the things of this world, and the worries of this world are grabbing you. And the lust of other things have you in their grip. And you think: How can I be set free? Well, God has an answer. And that answer begins with this key word that we see in Jeremiah. It is used in Jeremiah more than any other book of the Bible, which is very, very significant. It is used 111 times in the book of Jeremiah. The next book that is highest on the scale after Jeremiah is the book of Psalms; and there it's used 71 times. Now the book of Psalms is where the psalmist pours out his heart to God. Pours out his heart about sin, pours out his heart about questioning God about why people are committing sin, get away with it, and seem fat and sleek, and have everything, and they're not considering their end. It's a book where you're afraid, and you go to God. So Psalms are matters and issues of the heart, and questions that you have to God, and answers and solutions. Well, it is used, and you might want to just think about this, but it is used ten different ways. And "shub," "s-h-u-b" it's used ten different ways. And under those ten different ways, there are all these sub stratus of the way that it is used. But significantly to us and the most three significant ways that "shub" is used is number one, it is used of physical motion. Which means it is used of "a literal turning of oneself." And you don't want to forget that: return. So return says, "OK, I'm going to turn around. I am going to go back." So when I mark "return," I start on the top of the word in red. I come around the end of the word, and I have an arrow pointing over to where the word begins. Literally the word is "turn," but it has the implication of return. All right, now the second way that it is used, and this is the least significant of the three, but it is added on as an auxiliary verb to make an emphasis. So it's like saying, "Again, I want to return to this. I want to say it again." But the third way that it is used, and you want to write this down—the third way it is used of Israel's returning to God. It is used of Israel, calling Israel back to the Lord. It contains the two

requisites of the word “repent.” And you see that is essential to know because Jesus’ message, when He began His public ministry, was the same as John the Baptist. **“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”** (Matthew 4:17) Now what does it mean to repent? Well, once again I want to give you that sense of motion, repent means to turn from evil. It means to stop doing that which is evil. But it doesn’t mean that you stop and you coast. It doesn’t mean that you stop, and you’re in neutral gear. Rather it means that you turn from doing evil, to doing good. So when God is saying, [“Return to Me,”] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 3:22) “shub,” He is saying “I want you to turn from evil.” That’s the thing that has you in its grip. That’s the thing that’s causing you to lose sleep. That’s the thing that is weighing you down. That’s the thing that is causing you guilt. This is the thing that is keeping you maybe from God. This is the thing that you are hiding and burying. But I want to tell you something, you can hide it from everyone else, but you cannot hide it from God. And God says, **“...Be [ye] sure your sin will find you out.”** (Numbers 32:23) So this is turning from evil, but it’s not stopping there. It is doing something positive. It is going from evil to something that is good. And this is what we are going to talk about. You can go this week from evil to good. You can be set free. We’ll talk about it in just a minute.

PART TWO

OK, I’m going to make a play on words: Thank you for “shubing.” Thank you for returning. Thank you for coming back. Thank you for being part of this ministry. And, and before I continue in the lesson, I want to thank you for supporting this ministry. I want you to know that the media, and even producing it is very, very expensive. And it’s not because of my salary, believe me! But it is very, very expensive. And so I want to thank you for not only taking in what we are giving you, but giving back and joining us in ministry, so that others can know the whole counsel of God, so that they can

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go through the Bible, so that they can know it book by book and verse by verse. And you just thrill me when I hear from you. You go to preceptsforlife.com and send me a message; it thrills me. It thrills me to know that you are loving learning the Word of God, discovering truth for yourself, and having it affirmed as we go through these lessons. So if you want to contact us, you can go to preceptsforlife.com. Well, now I'm laying a foundation for you. We're talking about being set free from a besetting sin. We're talking about being healed so that we are not in the grip of that sin anymore, that disobedience, that thing that is nagging at our conscience that is wearing at us. And I want to tell you something. If you are doing something that is wrong and it's not disturbing you, then I would check out my Christianity. Well, when we look at "shub," "s-h-u-b," we find now that it is the twelfth most used verb in the Old Testament. That in Jeremiah it is used 111 times, and yet of those 111 times, 48 of those times have to do with this, in a sense, repentance. In the sense, of turning from evil and turning from evil to do good, not just to stay in neutral, but to have a power effect, to have an impact on life, to contribute to life and to contribute to the morals of the nation, the morals of the culture, and how desperately we need that. When you look at the book of Isaiah, and we've studied the book of Isaiah together, and when you look at that book you find out that the word "shub," in the first 39 chapters of Isaiah, is only used six times. And then it is only used four times in the rest of the book, which tells us something. You see, in Isaiah, he is pointing to the future. And he is telling them, that God, is very upset with them, very upset with them, and that He is going to judge them, and he is warning them. And he tells them that He is going to judge them, that He is going to save a remnant. And the remnant are going to be those that respond. And then He tells of His ultimate triumph and victory. And He tells how all of this is accomplished by all the prophecies of the Lord Jesus Christ that are in the book of Isaiah. And yet, He does not hammer home like He does in the book of Jeremiah over and over and over again. He says, ["Return, return, return to Me. If you will return to Me, if you will return,

faithless one, I will heal your faithlessness.”] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 3:22) Now, what does faithless mean? And where does the word come from? Well, it’s a play on “shub,” again. The way you say faithlessness in the Hebrew is “m” and then you put a little “e” up there at the top and then it’s S-H-U-B-A. And so this is faithlessness. And He is saying, “I am calling you to return to Me. I am calling you not to be faithless.” To be faithless is to be treacherous. To be treacherous means that you are living a life of deceit, that you are saying one thing and you are living another way. It is hypocrisy. It is an offense to God. And so what I want us to do is I want us to see the faithlessness of Israel. And in seeing the faithlessness of Israel, I want you, Precious One, to examine your life. Are you faithless? Are you not living in a way that is totally, and absolutely, and completely pleasing to God? You say, “Now wait a minute. That’s not going to happen until I’m out of this body.” Listen, God says that you are to, **“Love [Him] with all your heart...with all your soul...with all your mind, and with all your strength.” (Mark 12:30)** And if that is your passion it doesn’t mean that you’re perfect, but it means that you are headed in the right direction. So when we look at Jeremiah, I want us to go back to Jeremiah chapter 1, verse 16, and I want show you what faithlessness is. In Jeremiah chapter 1, we have the call of Jeremiah, we have God commissioning Jeremiah, sending him to the nations as a prophet, sending him to Judah, the Southern Kingdom that is still in the land. He has a message for them. And the message that he brings is: God is going to judge you. And He says, and God is speaking, and He is saying to Jeremiah, **“I will pronounce My judgments on them...,”** He says, **“...concerning all their wickedness, [all their wickedness]....” (Jeremiah 1:16)** I will tell you this, America has never been more wicked than it is now. America has sunk to the depths. And of all the nations in the world, I believe that America has had more light, more freedom to worship God. And yet for all of our light, for all of the truth that we’ve been given, for the freedom that we have had, and we are not as free as we used to be. And if something doesn’t happen in the

United States of America more and more and more they are gonna clamp down on your Christianity. That's why you need to pray for the president. You need to pray for those that are in authority, as Timothy says, so that we can lead peaceable and godly lives. (See 1 Timothy 2:1-2) So that we don't have to fight this battle with the government, and go underground like so many other countries have. But we are a nation that has forsaken God. It says, I'm gonna **"... pronounce My judgments on them...whereby they have..."** one, **"...forsaken Me..."** (Jeremiah 1:16) They have turned away from Me. That's why the message this week is, [return to Me faithless one, and I will heal your faithlessness. I can make you whole. I can set you free. I can put you on the right track if you will return to Me.] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 3:22) But He says, **"...they have forsaken Me..."** Then He says, **"... [They] have offered sacrifices to other gods..."** and third, **"... [they have] worshiped the works of their...hands..."** (Jeremiah 1:16) And so He's saying, "This is what you've done. This is wrong, and I want you to come back to Me." In Jeremiah chapter 2, verse 1, He tells us how he has forsaken them and He likens this to the marriage covenant. Watch what He says in Jeremiah chapter 2, verse 2, **"Go and proclaim in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus says the LORD, 'I remember...you the devotion of your youth, the love of your betrothals....'''"** (Jeremiah 2:2) What is He saying? "You've turned away from Me." And He's saying, "You're My wife. You are My wife. You and I were engaged. You and I were promised to one another in a covenant, and you've turned your back on Me." Now listen, if you are a child of God, if you are a true Christian, you are in covenant with God. And you, if you are not walking in the way you ought to walk you've turned your back on Him. And the message is, [return to Me.] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 3:22) You say, "I'd like to, but." We'll take care of the "but." I just want to make sure you'd really like to.