

Back to Normal?

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Judges 21:25 (NASB)

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

2 Peter 3:9 (NASB)

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

1. Look forward to a BETTER NORMAL.

Jeremiah 24:1-10 (NASB)

After Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and the officials of Judah with the craftsmen and smiths from Jerusalem and had brought them to Babylon, the LORD showed me: behold, two baskets of figs set before the temple of the LORD! ² One basket had very good figs, like first-ripe figs, and the other basket had very bad figs which could not be eaten due to rotteness.

³ Then the LORD said to me, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" And I said, "Figs, the good figs, very good; and the bad figs, very bad, which cannot be eaten due to rotteness." ⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁵ "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'Like these good figs, so I will regard as good the captives of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans.

⁶ 'For I will set My eyes on them for good, and I will bring them again to this land; and I will build them up and not overthrow them, and I will plant them and not pluck them up. ⁷ 'I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the LORD; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart.

⁸ 'But like the bad figs which cannot be eaten due to rotteness—indeed, thus says the LORD—so I will abandon Zedekiah king of Judah and his officials, and the remnant of Jerusalem who remain in this land and the ones who dwell in the land of Egypt. ⁹ 'I will make them a terror and an evil for all the kingdoms of the earth, as a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse in all places where I will scatter them.

¹⁰ 'I will send the sword, the famine and the pestilence upon them until they are destroyed from the land which I gave to them and their forefathers.'"

trouble is a blessing when it makes us stronger, and prosperity is a curse if it draws us away from God.

2. Seek God WHOLEHEARTEDLY.

Jeremiah 29:10-14 (NASB)

"For thus says the LORD, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. ¹¹ 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

¹² 'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ 'You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴ 'I will be found by you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'

3. Return with a renewed sense of APPRECIATION!

Ezekiel 36:26 (NASB)

"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Praying for the new normal

People putting God first

People loving each other

People appreciating things more

Families sticking together

Less drug addictions and crime

Politicians united not divided

Romans 3:23 (NASB)

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 (NASB)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 10:9-10 (NASB)

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Use these scriptures to lead others to Jesus. Because He is the Way, The Truth and the Life!