

What Do We Do?

Lesson Handout

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Scripture: Jeremiah 8:1-6, 7:1-11, 7:15-16, 21, 28





1. The Key Passage

*“Why [then] is this people of Jerusalem **slidden back** by a perpetual **backsliding**? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return” I hearkened and heard, but they spake not aright: no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle. (Jeremiah 8:5-6)*

“Tell them this, GOD’s Message: “Do people fall down and not get up? Or take the wrong road and then just keep going? So why does this people go backward, and just keep on going—backward. They stubbornly hold on to their illusions, refuse to change direction. I listened carefully but heard not so much as a whisper. No one expressed one word of regret. Not a single “I’m sorry” did I hear. They just kept at it, blindly and stupidly banging their heads against a brick wall. Cranes know when it’s time to move south for winter. And robins, warblers, and bluebirds know when it’s time come back again. But my people? My people know nothing, not the first thing of GOD and his rule. (Message Jer. 5-7)


2. The Word: Slidden back (Strong’s #H7725)¹

a. Root definition means:

-  To turn about
-  To return
-  To cause to return or restore
-  Metaphorically, to be converted as a sinner

See Blueletter Bible Lexicon where the Gesenius Lexicon provides an in-depth definition of the word repent, turn, return (Strong’s #H7225)

b. In a spiritual sense (figuratively)

-  To turn back (from God), **apostatise**
-  To turn away (of God) 1) to bring back,

¹ See Blueletter Bible Lexicon. Type the word repent and look for Strong’s #7225; can also compare with repent (grieved in Genesis 6:6 where the LORD God “repented” and “it grieved him at his heart” him “that he had made man.”

- ✚ To turn back (to God), repent
- ✚ To turn back (from evil)

3. To Adam, these are the words of the LORD (Yehovah) God (Elohim):

“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return⁷⁷²⁵ unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou [art], and unto dust shalt thou return⁷⁷²⁵.”

4. The Word: Backsliding, Strong’s #H4878, mesh-u-va, מְשׁוּבָה, but the root word is Strong’s #7725 (See 3a & 3b above), repent and is spelled שׁוּב, (See 3a and 3b above).

Backsliding refers to a turning away, defection, apostasy, “the turning away of fools (from wisdom: specially turning away from Yehovah, (Jer. 3:6, 8, 11, 128:5, Hosea 11:7)

5. The Word: Apostasy

✚ **What is apostasy?** In Wikipedia, “it refers to the rejection of Christianity by someone who formerly was a Christian. The term apostasy comes from the Greek word apostasia, meaning defection, departure, revolt or rebellion.”

It further states that it is the antonym of conversion; it is deconversion. (Wikipedia)

✚ **Is this word in the Bible?** NT: Strong’s G646 & G647, both said to be derivatives of two other words meaning, to make stand off, cause to withdraw, to remove and to cause or make to stand, to place, put, set.

Acts 21:21: #G646 *“And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs.”*

2 Thessalonians: #G646 *“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.”*

Matthew 5:31: #G647 *“It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:”* Also, see Matthew 19:7 and Mark 10:4.

Jeremiah 3:8: *“And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.”*

✚ **Scriptures addressing apostasy (there at least 100 scriptures)?**

Jeremiah 17:5: *“Thus says the Lord: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord.”* ESV

Ezekiel 33:18: *“When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it.”*

Matthew 7:21-23: “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

Matthew 15:7-9: “You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: “‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’” ESV

Jude 1:4-6: “For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—“**Revelation 22:14:** “Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.” ESV

6. **The Dictionary of Biblical Images**” It states that there are at least four distinct images in Scripture pertaining to the concept of apostasy. They include imagery, rebellion, turning away and falling away and adultery. According to this source, these fit into the category of **intentional defection!!**

Question: Have you anything lately that you would label intentional defection??

7. Rebellion

✚ *The LORD will know when we are in rebellion. “The LORD God of gods, the LORD God of gods, he knoweth, and Israel he shall know; if it be in rebellion, or if in transgression against the LORD, (save us not this day,)” (Joshua 22:22).*

8. Turning away

✚ “Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. ⁶ For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.” (Jer. 17:5-6).

✚ “Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumbling-block before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand” (Ezek. 3:20).

9. Falling away

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it” (Matt. 7:24-27).

10. Adultery

✚ One of the most common images for apostasy in the Old Testament is adultery.

✚ *“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it” (Jer. 2:1-3).*

11. What do they do? What do we do? Follow the pattern and:

✚ Repent and turn back to God

✚ *“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance” (Acts 26:18-20).*