

AM, OUTLINE
02/08/2015

“DO RETURN UNTO THE LORD”

(1 Samuel 7:1-6)

(1 Samuel 7:3) “And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying,
If ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, **then** put away the strange gods
and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord,
and serve him only: **and** he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.”

1. “IF” - THE GOAL OF “RETURN”

1) “Return unto the Lord”

It's difficult when some do not see themselves “away” from God. I wonder what they
would do differently if they did decide to “go away” from God.

The message of “return” is often given: (Deut. 30:2; 1 Kings 8:47-48;
Isaiah 55:7; Luke 15:17-18; Rev. 2:4-5)

2) “With all your heart”

Yes, come back to the Lord, and put your “heart” into it.
(Matt. 22:36-37; Prov. 4:23; Psalm 119:2)

2. “THEN” - THE REQUIREMENTS OF “RETURN”

1) “Put away the strange gods”

Jacob and Joshua issued the same challenge: (Gen. 35:2; Joshua 24:23)

What “strange god” took you away from God? - sleep, sports, television,
hobby, home maintenance, weekend trips, selfish, you name it.

2) “Prepare your hearts”

(1 Chron. 22:19) “Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God”
(Ezek. 18:31) “Cast away from you all your transgressions ... and make you a
new heart and a new spirit: for why will you die, O house of Israel?”

3) “and serve him only”

There is but one God to be served: (Deut. 6:13, 10:20-21, 13:4)

3. “AND” - THE RESULT OF “RETURN”

“**he will deliver you**” - wouldn't you really rather have “deliverance?”
(Psalm 40:2) “He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay,
set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings”