

14Return, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am a lord unto you, and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion;

15and I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. **16**And it shall come to pass, when ye are multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the LORD, they shall say no more: The ark of the covenant of the LORD; neither shall it come to mind; neither shall they make mention of it; neither shall they miss it; neither shall it be made any more. **17**At that time they shall call Jerusalem The throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem; neither shall they walk any more after the stubbornness of their evil heart. **18**In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers.'

19But I said: 'How would I put thee among the sons, And give thee a pleasant land, The goodliest heritage of the nations!' And I said: 'Thou shalt call Me, My father; And shalt not turn away from following Me.'

20Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, So have ye dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel, Saith the LORD.

21Hark! upon the high hills is heard The suppliant weeping of the children of Israel; For that they have perverted their way, They have forgotten the LORD their God.

22Return, ye backsliding children, I will heal your backslidings.—'Here we are, we are come unto Thee; For Thou art the LORD our God.

23Truly vain have proved the hills, The uproar on the mountains; Truly in the LORD our God Is the salvation of Israel.

24But the shameful thing hath devoured The labour of our fathers from our youth; Their flocks and their herds, Their sons and their daughters. **25**Let us lie down in our shame, And let our confusion cover us; For we have sinned against the LORD our God, We and our fathers, From our youth even unto this day; And we have not hearkened To the voice of the LORD our God.'

Jeremiah 4

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A Plea to Return

1If thou wilt return, O Israel, Saith the LORD, Yea, return unto Me; And if thou wilt put away thy detestable things out of My sight, And wilt not waver;

2And wilt swear: 'As the LORD liveth' In truth, in justice, and in righteousness; Then shall the nations bless themselves by Him, And in Him shall they glory.

3For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem: Break up for you a fallow ground, And sow not among thorns.