



OFFICIAL  
**PRAYER**  
GUIDE



**THE RETURN**

NATIONAL AND GLOBAL DAY OF  
**PRAYER AND REPENTANCE**

[THEReturn.org](http://THEReturn.org)



## THE RETURN

### OFFICIAL PRAYER GUIDE

Use the following Prayer Guide as a resource with prayer prompts and scripture verses as ways to pray for God's power and a movement of the Holy Spirit to call your community back to God through repentance. To return to Him in humility, so that He might return to us.

There is no more powerful medium for prayer than the Word of God. This Prayer Guide challenges you to pray through Scripture and faithfully expect the promises of God to be fulfilled. Praying Scripture aligns your heart with God's heart because you are filling your mind and mouth with His Word.

You can join the official Prayer Campaign of THE RETURN. To join others around the globe praying for this appointed time and its impact, download the **Echo Prayer App** and follow the daily prayer feed at:

<https://echoprayerfeeds.com/the-return>

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## REBELLION TO REDEMPTION... A “NINEVEH MOMENT!”

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One of the most impactful stories in scripture regarding a city going from near destruction to redemption is found in the book of Jonah.

*“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” (JONAH 1:2)*

The great Assyrian city of Nineveh was full of wickedness, yet God chose a man, Jonah, to warn them of coming judgment and destruction. But Jonah resented what the Lord was asking him to do, and as the scripture accounts, after three days in the belly of a whale, he cried out to God and repented himself for rebelling against the calling of God and attempted to flee from Him. The Lord spared Jonah’s life, so the second time the Lord spoke, he obeyed and entered Nineveh...

*“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” So, Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three day’s journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going on a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” (JONAH 3:2-4)*

Then, an amazing miracle then took place first from the people.

*“The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.” (JONAH 3:5)*

When Jonah’s warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

*“By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.” (JONAH 3:6-8)*

*Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish. (JONAH 3:9)*

The miracle began when the obedience from a reluctant prophet delivered the word of the Lord, the king and the people responded in humility, turned back to the Lord in fasting, prayer, and repentance.

*When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened. (JONAH 3:10).*

Hallelujah! Thank God for his mercy, which remains today! This is a pattern in scripture that continues. Abominations occur in a land and a people. God chooses a man to deliver a warning prior to his righteous judgement. The word is accepted or rejected, depending on the choice exercised in free will, which brings about blessings or destruction.

We are in a critical time in America. We have been warned. God in His mercy has afforded us a time of reprieve to turn and repent for our land to be spared from destruction. ***It’s a Nineveh moment!*** THE RETURN is a chance for America—40 days prior to our next election—to turn back to God, just like Nineveh. THE RETURN is the gathering to spark a movement to fast, pray, and repent for our wickedness!

The following passages have been selected because of their connection to repentance, prayer, and turning to God for revival and restoration. These verses from the Holy Scriptures provide a spiritually nuclear opportunity to pray that God would move in the hearts of his people for our Nation.

## MODEL PRAYER

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Jesus has shown us how to effectively pray. Use this prayer as a model for other prayers or even to open or close your own time of prayer.



*Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” (MATTHEW 6:9-13)*

## PRAY FOR HUMILITY

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God despises a prideful and haughty spirit. To return to God, we must exhibit humility and our utter dependence on Christ. As you spend time in prayer, pray for God to expose any trace of pride in your heart. Allow his Spirit to deliver you and bestow a contrite heart in its place.



*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 CHRONICLES 7:14)*



*Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the Lord. (ZEPHANIAH 2:3)*



*“But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: ‘God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.’” (JAMES 4:6)*



*The highway of the upright turns aside from evil; whoever guards his way preserves his life. Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud. (PSALM 16:17-19)*



*And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. (DEUTERONOMY 8:1-3)*



*You save a humble people, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them down. (2 SAMUEL 22:28)*



*And when he was in distress, he entreated the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. (2 CHRONICLES 33:12)*



*And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the lofty pride of men shall be brought low, and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day. (ISAIAH 2:17)*

## PRAY FOR A TURNING AWAY FROM EVIL

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For God to heal our nation, we must turn from our evil ways. When we humble ourselves, pray, and repent of our personal, national, and corporate sins, we will experience revival, which will usher in the favor of God to cleanse his church. We invite Him to *return* to us as we *return* to Him. Pray through these Scriptures and repent of any evil the Holy Spirit exposes.



*Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.* (PSALM 139:23-24)



*There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.* (PROVERBS 6:16-19)



*He will give justice to the poor and make fair decisions for the exploited. The earth will shake at the force of his word, and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked.* (ISAIAH 11:4)



*Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.* (1 JOHN 2:15-17)



*Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.* (COLOSSIANS 3:5)



*So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.* (REVELATION 3:16)

## PRAY FOR REPENTANCE

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Repentance is a renewing of the mind that produces a 180-degree turn in our hearts and minds. It is not a one-time occurrence, but a way of life. An unbeliever doesn't have a repentant heart towards sin, but a follower of Christ believes God's Word and walks in a reverent fear of the Lord. What God requires for true repentance is an admission of sins we've committed, the will of God we've violated, and to walk in the fruits repentance brings, which are JOY and FREEDOM! Pray during this time for a zeal to have a repentant heart for the wrongs we have committed, both individually and as a nation.



*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.* (PSALM 51:10-13)



*From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* (MATTHEW 4:17)



*For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.* (MARK 7:21-23)



*Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance? But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.* (ROMANS 2:4-5)



*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* (1 JOHN 1:9)



*The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.* (2 PETER 3:9-10)



*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* (ACTS 2:38)



*"You showed favor to Your land, O Lord. You restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of Your people and covered all their sins. You set aside all Your wrath and turned from Your fierce anger. Restore us again, O Lord our Savior, and put away Your displeasure toward us. Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger through all generations? Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?"* (PSALM 85:1-6)



*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.* (ACTS 3:19)



*This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.”* (ISAIAH 30:15)



*“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”* (JOEL 2:12-17)



*From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.* (MALACHI 3:7)



*“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation. “‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.* (REVELATION 3:14-16)



*And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God has driven you, and return to the Lord your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you.* (DEUTERONOMY 30:1-3)



*The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him.* (DANIEL 9:9)

## PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HOPE

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Many people do not seek the face of God because they feel an utter sense of hopelessness in their lives. Use these verses to guide a time of prayer for those whose eyes are blinded by a spirit of despair to find their hope in the only source for true, lasting hope—Jesus Christ.



*I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.* (ROMANS 15:13)



*And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”* (REVELATION 7:14-17)



*Your sun will never set; your moon will not go down. For the Lord will be your everlasting light. Your days of mourning will come to an end.* (ISAIAH 60:20)



*I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.* (JOHN 14:27)



*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.* (JEREMIAH 29:11)



*Then Jesus said, ‘Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest’.* (MATTHEW 11:28)



*And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.* (REVELATION 21:4)



*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.* (PSALM 34:18)

## PRAY FOR THE SALVATION OF MANY

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Use the following verses as you pray for salvation to spring up in the hearts of lost people all across the world. Helping people connect to Christ may be part of the overflow that comes from a repentant people turning to God and allowing Him to pour out His blessing again.



*When you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed in Him, you were also sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.* (EPHESIANS 1:13)



*For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—not from works, so that no one can boast.* (EPHESIANS 2:8-9)



*May God be gracious to us and bless us; look on us with favor, so that your way may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.* (PSALM 67:1)



*Indeed, we have all received grace after grace from His fullness, for the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* (JOHN 1:16-17)



*If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.* (ROMANS 10:9-10)



*But to all who did receive Him, He gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in His name.* (JOHN 1:12)



*No one comes to the Father except through Me.* (JOHN 14:6)



*The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* (ROMANS 5:20-21)



*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* (ROMANS 5:8)



*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.* (EPHESIANS 2:1-5)



*He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.* (2 TIMOTHY 1:9)



*And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.* (2 CORINTHIANS 9:8)



*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* (JOHN 3:16)



*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (ROMANS 8:38-39)



*Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.* (HEBREWS 7:25)



*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.* (EPHESIANS 1:7)



*The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let the one who hears say, 'Come!' Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.* (REVELATION 22:17)

## PRAY FOR TRANSFORMATION

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The truest measure of repentance is a changed life—turning away from serving yourself and turning to God and living in the fruits of the Spirit. Our goal is not repentance for the sake of repentance but to see lives transformed by the grace of God and for His people to follow Him with all their hearts, souls, strength and might. Pray for the transformation of cold, stony hearts.



*But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.* (ISAIAH 40:31)



*May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.* (1 THESSALONIANS 5:23)



*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.* (ROMANS 12:2)



*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.* (EZEKIEL 36:26)



*Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.* (COLOSSIANS 1:21-22)

## PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TO TAKE ACTION

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For too long the people of God have slumbered and allowed evil to grow unabated. We have forgotten the Rock upon which our faith was founded. And we have removed Him from our public squares, our culture, and our lives. We need the holy remnant to arise and take back all that has been lost. To fall to our knees, confess our sins, and take action against the evil that has seeped into every corner of our world. Pray for God's people to stand for justice and righteousness.



*Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of the orphans. Fight for the rights of widows.* (ISAIAH 1:17)



*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'* (ISAIAH 52:7)



*He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he causes me to stand on the heights.* (PSALM 18:33)



*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* (EPHESIANS 2:10)



*You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.* (MATTHEW 5:14-16)

## A FINAL WORD: **KAIROS**

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The Greek word for opportunity as it appears in the Scriptures is KAIROS. Scholars tell us it means “favorable opportunity.” It implies “the right moment; that which lasts only for a while.” Kairos means a God-given opportunity is being offered to mankind at a specific moment in time. However, the word also implies there is a risk of loss. In other words, as time moves on, the opportunity can be missed. Our call as the people of God is to recognize this opportunity and respond in obedience to the One who is offering it, trusting in His ability to work through us to fulfill His purposes. *We are living in a Kairos moment today.*

We believe that working together in unison under the leadership of Jesus Christ, we will be honoring the appeal of the apostle Paul when he said:

***May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity amongst yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.***  
(ROMANS 15:5-6)

1 Corinthians 14:8 says, ***“If the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?”*** Paul warned us—now is our personal Kairos. Like the men who “understood the times” (see 1 Chronicles 12:32), we are called to understand our times and seize the moment. In Latin, the word opportunity means “toward the port”. In the ancient world, seamen used it to describe the time when the tide and winds were favorable to make it safely to port. When that moment came, they would set their sails to take full advantage of it. In the same way, when God is at work, as He is now, we must “wake up” to that opportunity, set our sails to His favor, and ride in His boat, using the wind and tide.

The time has come for each of us; we have been called to seize the moment! *We are at the threshold of the greatest move of God in our time.* Though the “time of God’s favor” has been generously extended to all people at all times through the cross, Church historians have noted that there have been specific seasons of God’s increased favor through history. Scholars use terms as outpouring, awakening, movement, and revival to describe those unique periods when God bestows His grace and power in unusual measure upon a people to extend his Kingdom on earth.

We must seize the moment. Carpe Diem! Seize the Day! Seize this God-given opportunity. The scripture says God will ***“do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us”*** (EPHESIANS 3:20) However, for that to happen, we must be a people of action who are ready to respond by faith to what God has initiated. As Paul said, we must ***“be very careful, then. How we live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil”*** (EPHESIANS 5:15-16)

***NOW is the time!***