

Return, Turn Back & Refresh

Fellow Mennonite Brethren

Most Christians would be surprised to discover the true meaning of the word "repent."

Commonly "repent" is understood to mean "to turn away from," and more specifically to turn away from sin. The notion is that while we once were living in sin, we have now left our sinful life behind. We have "repented." We as Mennonites correctly acknowledge that we have all sinned. But as a people we are rarely guilty of ever committing the sins of lying, stealing, adultery and murder. So it begs the question; what have we really repented from? We are such good people.

"Repent" is a three letter Hebrew word that is pronounced as 'shoove' and means to **return**, to **turn back** and even to **refresh**. The basic meaning of 'shoove' is defined by Holladay (if you have a Hebrew lexicon) as a word which is used of someone who has shifted direction in a particular way and then shifted back from it in the opposite way. The assumption is that such a person will turn back and reach the original point from which they departed. I think you can see the logic here that repentance cannot mean to **turn back** to a previous sinful lifestyle. Quite the opposite!

It is our sad history as Israelites that Yahuwah scattered us among the nations because we refused to obey Him. We rejected His commandments and chose rather to worship as the nations around us. After many centuries of rejection, it has become completely natural for us to conform to the idolatrous practices of the societies that we live in. Indeed we can not even recognize that our generally sincere worship is sinful in the eyes of Yahuwah. Little do we understand that this is the exact condition that Israel would find itself in in the later days.

Shortly before his death, Moses gave the whole house of Israel (all twelve tribes) one final message:

So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all the nations where YHWH your Elohim has banished you, and you **return** to YHWH your Elohim and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, then YHWH your Elohim will **restore** you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the people where YHWH your Elohim has scattered you. If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there YHWH you Elohim will gather you, and from there He will **bring you back**. And YHWH your Elohim will **bring you back** into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. (D'varim/Deuteronomy 30:1-5)

The true definition of the word "repent" is to turn back to Yahuwah and to His commandments. The Good News is that this is what Yahuwah is bringing about in our own time.

If you would like to keep the true original apostolic faith, or if you would like to learn what the prophecies predict for the next twenty years, visit us on the Web, at www.nazareneisrael.org and also at www.mennoniteisrael.org.

Or email me for a free copy of the study *Nazarene Israel; The Original Faith of the Apostles*.

Shalom & Ahava in Yeshua

Avraham ben Gad

Debarim 4:6: [Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people](#)

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