

Repentance By The Numbers

The spring *Holy Day season* features many themes ... including Sin & Covenant & God's Law & Salvation ...

In today's message ... I hope to equip EVERYBODY here by reviewing a MOST important aspect of our annual observance of the Passover & Days of Unleavened bread... An exploration of the Biblical teaching of Repentance

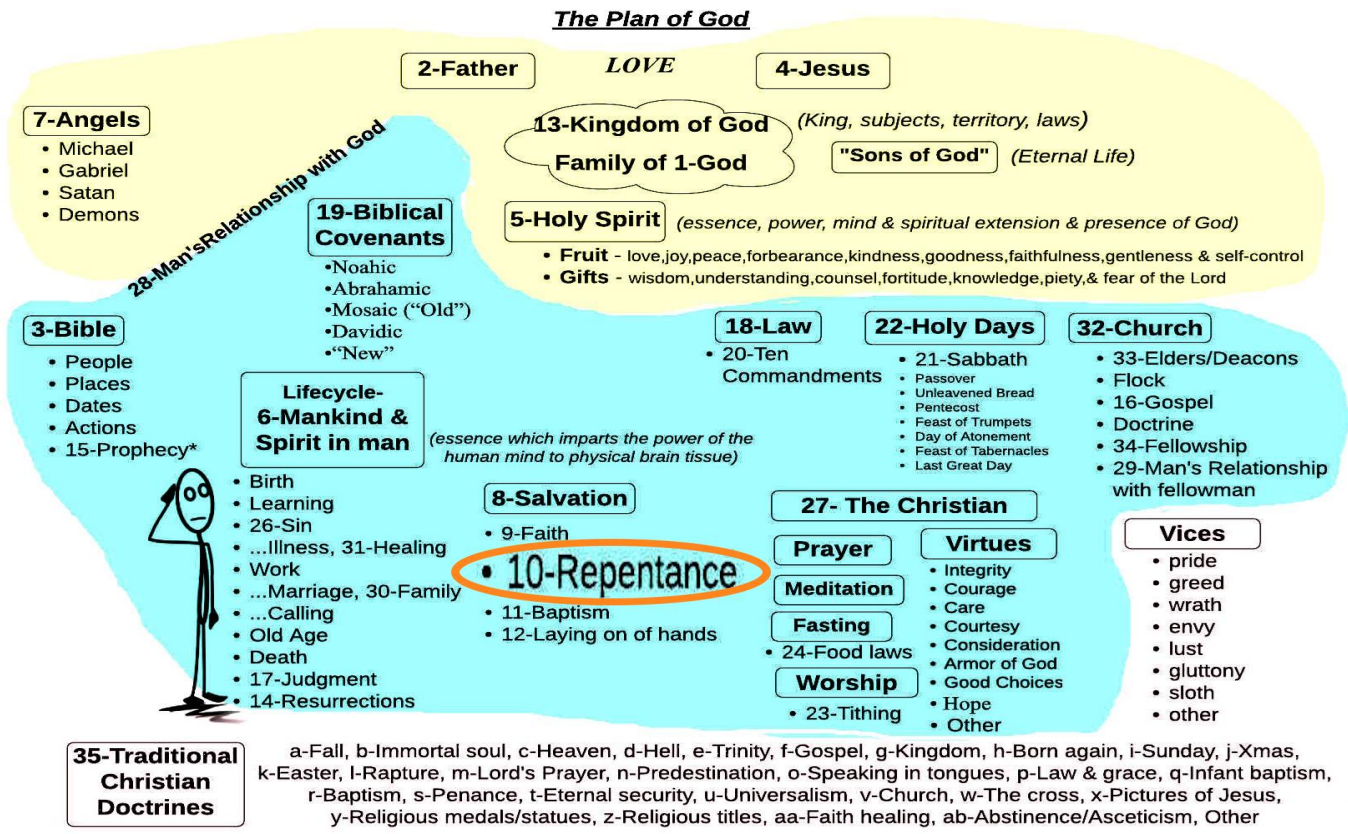
REPENTANCE DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Repentance is the act of acknowledging one's sins and resolving to fully obey God. To repent means to change one's overall attitude from wanting to go one's own way and instead wanting to go God's way. It begins when God opens one's mind to see oneself in comparison with God and His law. True repentance is the first step toward reconciliation with God, and thereby ultimately toward salvation. Acts 2:38; 3:19-21; 8:22; 1 John 3:4

In years past, this verse caused many people SERIOUS concern (*approaching Passover*)...

1Co 11:29 For he who eats and drinks **in an unworthy manner** eats and drinks **judgment** to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

(we understand (now) the verse is NOT saying "we" must be "worthy")



Second Death - (Perishing)

Time: (Past - History - Creation, 25-Hebrew Calendar ... **Present** -(World events) ... (**Future** - 15-Prophecy*) ... **Eternity** ...)



1 Key point to understand ... True repentance can occur only when **God Himself** opens one's eyes to see his past sinfulness by granting repentance (Acts 11:18; II Tim. 2:25).

Act 11:18 When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also **granted** to the Gentiles repentance to life."

2Ti 2:24-26 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if **God perhaps will grant them repentance**, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

True repentance is a complex and deeply personal phenomenon that can only be understood, in the final analysis, by experiencing it.

There are **2 components** leading to repentance!

The **first** component is the realization there is a vast difference, a great gulf, between God and oneself (e.g. Job 42).

Job 42:5-6 "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes."

The **second** aspect is an all-consuming desire to close that gap, to become more like God in character, thought and behavior, though the capacity to accomplish this is far beyond human power alone and requires the active involvement of God's Holy Spirit.

Psa 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And **lead me** in the way everlasting.

Pro 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

2Co 3:18 (ISV) As all of us reflect the glory of the Lord with unveiled faces, we are becoming more like Him with ever-increasing glory by the Lord's Spirit.



Paul's **3 Step process**: **godly sorrow** >> **repentance** >> **salvation**

2Cor 7:9-10 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For **godly sorrow** produces **repentance** leading to **salvation**, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.



4 Old Testament examples of Repentance

Jon 3:4-10 And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

Jon 3:5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

The People of Nineveh Repent

Jon 3:6 Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes.

Jon 3:7 And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water.

Jon 3:8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.

Jon 3:9 Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?

Jon 3:10 Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; & God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

HALLEY'S BIBLE HANDBOOK		
<i>Kings of Judah</i>		
Rehoboam	17 years	Bad mostly
Abijah	3 years	Bad mostly
Asa	41 years	Good
Jehoshaphat	25 years	Good
Jehoram	8 years	Bad
Ahaziah	1 year	Bad
Athaliah	6 years	Devilish
Joash	40 years	Good mostly
Amaziah	29 years	Good mostly
Uzziah	52 years	Good
Jotham	16 years	Good
Ahaz	16 years	Wicked
Hezekiah	29 years	The Best
Manasseh	55 years	The Worst
Amon	2 years	The Worst
Josiah	31 years	The Best
Jehoahaz	3 months	Bad
Jehoiakim	11 years	Wicked

2Ch 33:12-13 (NLT) But while in deep distress, Manasseh sought the LORD his God and **sincerely humbled** himself before the God of his ancestors.

2Ch 33:13 And when he prayed, the LORD listened to him and **was moved** by his request. So the LORD brought Manasseh back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh finally realized that the LORD alone is God!

King Manasseh, after a life of wickedness, repents in captivity, and ... God restores him.

Biblical examples showcase repentance as a **turning point**—whether through:

- confession,
- changed behavior, or
- heartfelt remorse—

followed by God's mercy and forgiveness.

Neh 9:1-3 On *twenty-fourth day of the month (two days after the Feast of Tabernacles)* the people assembled again, and this time they fasted and dressed in burlap and sprinkled dust on their heads.

Neh 9:2 Those of Israelite descent separated themselves from all foreigners as they **confessed their own sins** and the sins of their ancestors.

Neh 9:3 They remained standing in place for three hours while the Book of the Law of the LORD their God was read aloud to them. Then for three more hours they confessed their sins **and worshiped** the LORD their God.

HALLEY'S BIBLE HANDBOOK
Kings of Israel

Jeroboam	22 years	Bad
Nadab	2 years	Bad
Baasha	24 years	Bad
Elah	2 years	Bad
Zimri	7 days	Bad
Omri	12 years	Extra Bad
Ahab	22 years	The Worst
Ahaziah	2 years	Bad
Joram	12 years	Bad mostly
Jehu	28 years	Bad mostly
Jehoahaz	17 years	Bad
Joash	16 years	Bad
JeroboamII	41 years	Bad
Zechariah	6 months	Bad
Shallum	1 month	Bad
Menahem	10 years	Bad
Pekahiah	2 years	Bad
Pekah	20 years	Bad
Hoshea	9 years	Bad

1Ki 21:25 (No one else so completely sold himself to what was evil in the LORD's sight as Ahab did under the influence of his wife Jezebel.)

1Ki 21:26 His worst outrage was worshiping idols just as the Amorites had done—the people whom the LORD had driven out from the land ahead of the Israelites.)

1Ki 21:27 But when Ahab heard this message (*Elijah proclaiming Ahab's death*), he **tore his clothing, dressed in burlap, and fasted**. He even **slept in burlap** and went about in **deep mourning**.

1Ki 21:28 Then another message from the LORD came to Elijah:

1Ki 21:29 "Do you see how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has done this, **I will not do what I promised during his lifetime**. It will happen to his sons; I will destroy his dynasty."

5 New Testament examples of Repentance



Prodigal Son- Luke 15:17-20 When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, & here I am dying of hunger!

Luk 15:18 I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you,

Luk 15:19 and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."

Luk 15:20 "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.

Luk 7:37-38 When a certain immoral woman from that city heard He was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. Then she **knelt** behind Him at His feet, **weeping**. Her tears fell on His feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept **kissing His feet** and putting perfume on them.

Luk 7:47-48 "I tell you, her sins—**and they are many**—have been **forgiven**, so she has shown Me **much love**. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love." Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven."

*Reconciliation with God is what **repentance** is ALL about!*

Act 16:30-34 Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced **because they all believed in God**.

*The jailer, moved by fear & faith after the earthquake, **repents** & embraces belief in Christ.*

Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Luk 18:9-14 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

Luk 18:10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

Luk 18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.

Luk 18:12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

Luk 18:13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, '**God, be merciful to me a sinner!**'

Luk 18:14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and **he who humbles himself will be exalted.**"



*In this parable, the tax collector **humbly repents**, seeking God's mercy...*

Luk 23:39-43 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."

Luk 23:40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?"

Luk 23:41 And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong."

Luk 23:42 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

Luk 23:43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you today, you will be with Me in Paradise."

*The thief recognizes his guilt, turns to Jesus in faith, & receives assurance of salvation—a powerful moment of **repentance**.*



6 Scriptures pointing to the concept of a "**broken heart**"...a state of humility, contrition, & dependence on God—qualities that are pleasing to Him

Psa 51:16-17 For You do **not** desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do **not** delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a **broken spirit**, A **broken & a contrite heart**— These, O God, You will not despise.

Psa 34:18 (NLT) The LORD is close to the **brokenhearted**; He rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

Isa 57:15 (NLT) For the high and honored One Who lives forever, Whose name is Holy, says, 'I live in the high and holy place. And I also live with those who are **sorry for their sins** and have **turned from them** and are **not proud**. I give new strength to the spirit of those **without pride**, and also to those whose **hearts are sorry** for their sins.'

Joel 2:12-13 "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with **all your heart**, With **fasting, with weeping, & with mourning.**" So **rend your heart**, and not your garments; **Return** to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

Luke 4:18-19 (from Isaiah 61) "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR; HE HAS SENT ME TO **HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED**, TO **PROCLAIM LIBERTY** TO THE CAPTIVES AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO **SET AT LIBERTY** THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED; TO PROCLAIM THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

Eze 36:25-27 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

Eze 36:26 I will give you a **new heart** and put a new spirit within you; I will take the **heart of stone** out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

*God desires mankind to have tender, responsive hearts that align with His will. The **brokenhearted**, softened by their struggles, are **ready** for this renewal, fulfilling His plan to restore humanity's original design.*

7 Products of godly repentance

2Co 7:9-11 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.

2Co 7:10 For **godly sorrow** produces **repentance** leading to **salvation**, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

2Co 7:11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner:

- 1- What **diligence** it produced in you, (*speed & haste in effort to move forward*)
- 2- what **clearing** of yourselves, (*apology for what has been done, roused to remove evil*)
- 3- what **indignation**, (***hatred** of sin... as an evil and a bitter thing*).
- 4- what **fear**, (*dread of not correcting evil/sin or not entirely removing it*)
- 5- what vehement **desire**, (*fervent wish to remove the sin that they tolerated*)
- 6- what **zeal**, (*enthusiasm to remove sin & set about on the work of reformation*)
- 7- what **vindication!** (*what punishment or avenging... corrective action-sin must be punished*)

In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.



Summary of the Process of Repentance:

- Recognize and acknowledge your sin (Psalm 51:3-4).
- Feel godly sorrow for offending God (2 Corinthians 7:10).
- Confess your sins to Him (1 John 1:9).
- Turn away from sinful behavior (Acts 3:19, Ezekiel 18:30-31).
- Seek God's mercy and restoration (Luke 15:18-20).
- Live differently, showing evidence of change (Matthew 3:8, Acts 26:20).