

DAY 9 | THE INVITATION TO RETURN

MIXED MEDIA FAITH • MAKE ROOM FOR GOD'S HEART

Hebrew & Aramaic Word Study | Hosea 14:1–4 • Zechariah 1:3 • Isaiah 55:6–7 • Acts 3:19

Our study focus

Repentance is not merely turning away from something. Scripture calls us to turn toward the Lord, seek Him, release the paths that draw us away, and receive His mercy. These notes summarize selected Chaim Bentorah studies and distinguish standard word meanings from his more exploratory devotional readings.

1. SHUV — Return / turn back

Scripture: Zechariah 1:3; Hosea 14:1–2

The Hebrew root **shuv** commonly means to return, turn back, or restore. God's call is personal: return *to Me*. Bentorah discusses the form of this invitation in his Zechariah studies.

Reflect: Where am I being invited to turn toward God, rather than merely away from a habit?

2. YASHAV — Dwell / take up residence

Scripture: Zechariah 1:3 (interpretive comparison)

Yashav means to sit, remain, or dwell. Bentorah proposes reading the divine response in Zechariah as an invitation to God's indwelling. This is a **devotional, nonstandard reading**; the conventional understanding of the verse is "I will return to you."

Reflect: What would making room for God's presence change in my daily choices?

3. YHWH TSEVA'OT — LORD of Hosts

Scripture: Zechariah 1:3

Tseva'ot refers to hosts or armies. Bentorah reflects on God's sovereign will and pleasure. The repeated title emphasizes the authority of the One who extends this invitation.

Reflect: How does it change my response to know the mighty Lord is the One calling me back?

4. DARASH — Seek / inquire

Scripture: Isaiah 55:6

Darash means to seek, inquire of, or pursue. Bentorah urges readers to see this as more than a one-time crisis appeal: a purposeful pursuit of God.

Reflect: Am I seeking God only for answers, or also for fellowship?

5. QAROV — Near / close

Scripture: Isaiah 55:6

Qarov means near. Bentorah's "Vulnerable" and "Approachable" studies reflect on nearness as relational accessibility. "Vulnerable" is his devotional application, **not the ordinary dictionary meaning** of the Hebrew word.

Reflect: Where have I assumed God is unapproachable? What would honest prayer sound like?

6. AZAV / YA'AZOV — Forsake / leave

Scripture: Isaiah 55:7

Azav means to leave, forsake, or abandon. The passage calls us to relinquish destructive ways *and thoughts* and return to God, who offers mercy and abundant pardon. Bentorah also explores the imagery of guilt and the scapegoat; that connection is interpretive rather than the direct meaning of the verb.

Reflect: Which way of thinking do I need to leave behind, not just which behavior?

7. TURNING AND REFRESHING — Acts 3:19

Scripture: Acts 3:19

Acts uses Greek language for repentance and turning; Bentorah's "Conversion" study explores an **Aramaic** reading emphasizing surrender or submission. This is a devotional comparison, not the original Greek lexical meaning. The promise points toward sins wiped away and refreshing from the Lord.

Reflect: What might surrender look like without trying to earn forgiveness?

Bring the four passages together

Hosea: return with honest words; God promises freely given love and healing.

Zechariah: hear the Lord's invitation to return.

Isaiah: seek, forsake, and receive abundant mercy.

Acts: repent and turn to God; receive forgiveness and refreshing.

Journal space

Source studies — Chaim Bentorah

The ten links provided for Day 9 (including closely related/repeated Zechariah and Isaiah studies):

chaimbentorah.com/2013/02/devotional-zechariah-13/

chaimbentorah.com/2013/02/devotional-zechariah-13-2/

chaimbentorah.com/2026/09/hebrew-word-study-take-up-residence-yashav/

chaimbentorah.com/2014/01/word-study-lord-host/

chaimbentorah.com/2025/03/hebrew-word-study-search-dresh/

chaimbentorah.com/2025/03/auto-draft-16/

chaimbentorah.com/2024/07/hebrew-word-study-vulnerable-qaruv/

chaimbentorah.com/2020/10/hebrew-word-study-approachable-4/

chaimbentorah.com/2024/08/hebrew-word-study-abandon-yazov/

chaimbentorah.com/2015/08/word-study-conversion-%EF%AC%AA%D7%9C%D7%9E/

Prepared as an original study companion; not a reproduction of the source articles. NIV Scripture references are provided for reading alongside your Day 9 Scripture page.