

## Divine calls to “return” to the land of promise in the Bible

Then YHWH said to Jacob, "**Return to the land of your ancestors and to your kindred**, and I will be with you....I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and return to the land of your birth." (Genesis 31.3, 13)

YHWH said to Moses in Midian, "**Go back to Egypt**; for all those who were seeking your life are dead." (Exodus 4.19)

And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you: **you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family**. (Leviticus 25.10)

Even so, he must not acquire many horses for himself, or return the people to Egypt in order to acquire more horses, since YHWH has said to you, "**You must never return that way again.**" (Deuteronomy 17.16)

Even if you are exiled to the ends of the world, from there **YHWH your God will gather you, and from there he will bring you back**. (Deuteronomy 30.4)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from YHWH's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness **prepare the way of YHWH, make straight in the desert a highway for our God**." (Isaiah 40.1-3)

**Flee from Babylon**, and go out of the land of the Chaldeans, and be like male goats leading the flock. (Jeremiah 50.8)

Cf. Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, "**Come out of her, my people**, so that you do not take part in her sins, and so that you do not share in her plagues..." (Revelation 18.4)