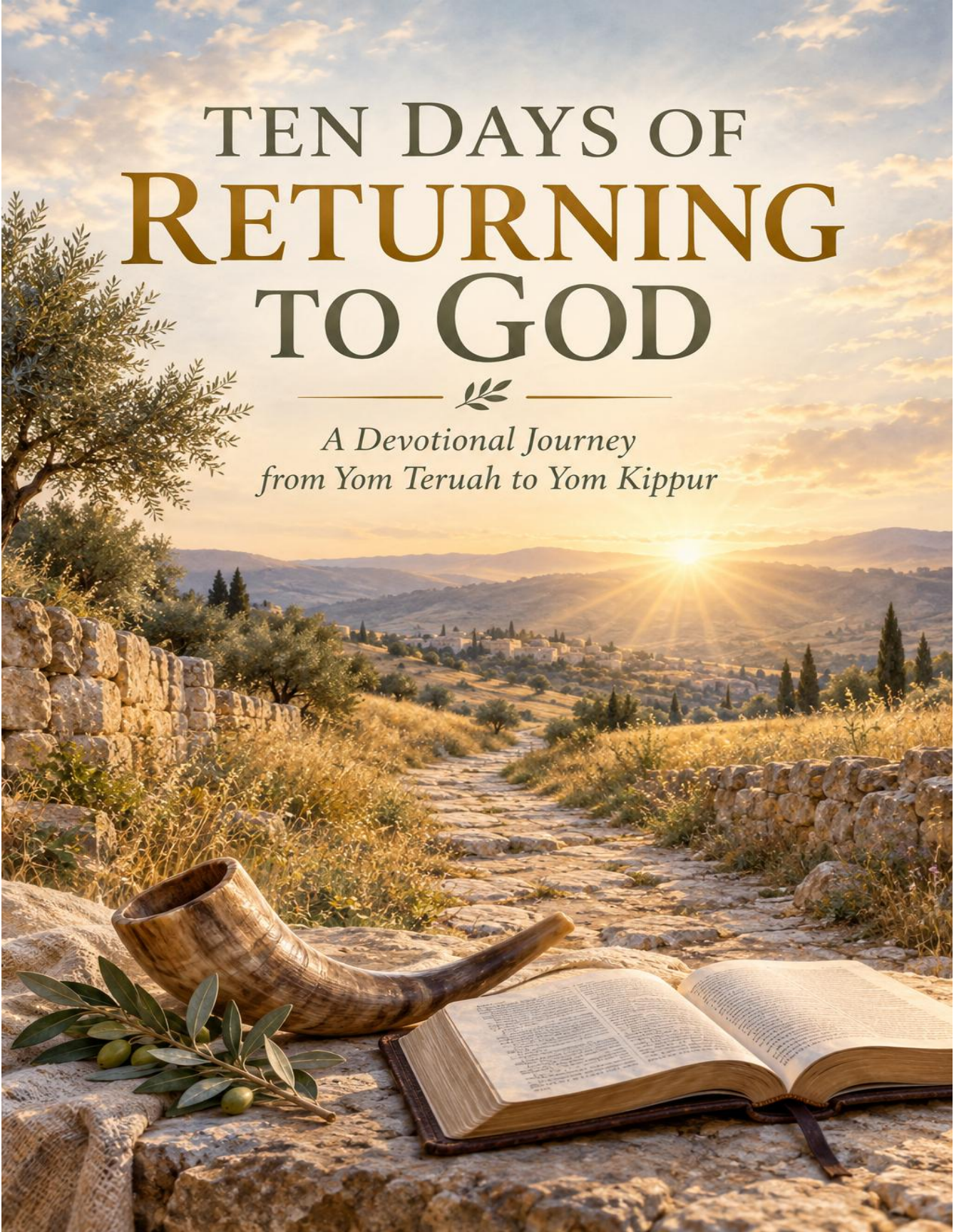




TEN DAYS OF RETURNING TO GOD



*A Devotional Journey
from Yom Teruah to Yom Kippur*

The period from Yom Teruah to Yom Kippur can be a beautiful time to slow down before God—a season of awakening, honest examination, repentance, reconciliation, and renewed trust in the atoning work of Jesus.

A simple daily rhythm

Each day you might set aside 20–30 minutes:

1. Light a candle or sit somewhere quiet.
2. Ask God to open your heart.
3. Read the passage slowly, perhaps twice.
4. Journal your response to the questions.
5. Sit silently for a few minutes.
6. Complete the suggested practice.
7. Close with prayer.

A verse to carry through the entire period is:

“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.”

—James 4:8

This season need not be driven by fear that you have failed to repent perfectly. Its purpose is to draw you nearer to God—awake to His voice, honest about sin, reconciled where possible, and deeply grateful for the mercy provided through Christ.

Father, awaken my heart and help me hear Your voice. Search me and reveal anything that is drawing me away from You. Give me humility to confess my sins, courage to make things right, and grace to forgive others. Thank You for the mercy You have given me through Jesus Christ, my great High Priest and perfect sacrifice. Lead me through these days with honesty, hope, and a renewed desire to walk closely with You. Amen.

Here is a ten-day Christian devotional journey, counting Yom Teruah as Day 1 and Yom Kippur as Day 10.

Ten Days of Returning to God

Day 1 — Awake, O Sleeper

Read: Leviticus 23:23–25; Ephesians 5:8–17

Theme: Hearing God's call

The trumpet blast of Yom Teruah is a call to awaken. It reminds us to stop drifting through life and become attentive to God's presence, His Word, and the condition of our hearts.

Reflect:

- Where have I become spiritually distracted or complacent?
- Is God calling me to give renewed attention to something?

Practice: Spend five quiet minutes simply saying, "Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening."

Prayer:

Father, awaken my heart. Help me recognize Your voice and respond without delay. Show me where I have been sleeping spiritually, and lead me back into the light. Amen.

Day 2 — Search Me, O God

Read: Psalm 139:23–24; Lamentations 3:40–41

Theme: Honest self-examination

Biblical examination is not anxious fault-finding. It is inviting the loving God who already knows us completely to reveal what needs healing, confessing, or surrendering.

Reflect:

- What attitudes or habits have taken root in me?
- What might I be reluctant to let God examine?

Practice: Write down whatever the Lord brings to mind. Do not justify or condemn yourself; simply bring it into His light.

Prayer:

Search me, O God, and know my heart. Reveal anything that leads me away from You, and guide me in Your everlasting way. Amen.

Day 3 — Return With Your Whole Heart

Read: Joel 2:12–13; Hosea 14:1–4

Theme: Teshuvah—returning

Repentance means more than feeling sorry. It means turning around and returning to God. His invitation is not merely “Do better,” but “Come back to Me.”

Reflect:

- From what do I need to turn?
- What would returning to God look like in one practical area of my life?

Practice: Choose one concrete act of obedience to begin today.

Prayer:

Lord, I return to You with my whole heart. Give me grace to leave behind what separates me from You and walk again in Your ways. Amen.

Day 4 — Confession and Cleansing

Read: Psalm 51:1–12; 1 John 1:5–9

Theme: Bringing sin into the light

God does not ask us to hide, minimize, or excuse our sin. He invites us to confess it and receive His faithful forgiveness and cleansing.

Reflect:

- Is there a sin I have renamed, excused, or concealed?
- Do I truly believe God is willing to forgive me?

Practice: Confess specifically to God. Then read 1 John 1:9 aloud and thank Him for His forgiveness.

Prayer:

Have mercy on me, O God. Wash me, renew a steadfast spirit within me, and restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Amen.

Day 5 — Making Things Right

Read: Matthew 5:23–24; Romans 12:17–21

Theme: Reconciliation

Repentance affects our relationships. Although reconciliation is not always possible or safe, we can ask whether we owe someone an apology, restitution, or a sincere attempt to make peace.

Reflect:

- Have my actions wounded someone?
- Is there an apology I have delayed?
- What step toward peace is within my responsibility?

Practice: If appropriate and safe, offer a sincere apology without excuses or demands.

Prayer:

God of peace, show me where I need to make things right. Give me humility to admit my wrongs and wisdom to pursue peace faithfully. Amen.

Day 6 — Releasing the Debts of Others

Read: Matthew 6:12–15; Colossians 3:12–15

Theme: Forgiveness

Forgiveness does not call evil good, remove necessary boundaries, or instantly restore trust. It releases personal vengeance into God's hands and refuses to let bitterness rule the heart.

Reflect:

- Whose name brings resentment or anger to the surface?
- What pain do I need to place into God's hands?

Practice: Pray for willingness to forgive, even if your emotions have not yet caught up with that decision.

Prayer:

Father, as You have forgiven me, help me forgive others. Heal what has been wounded, guard me from bitterness, and give me wisdom concerning healthy boundaries. Amen.

Day 7 — Humbling Ourselves

Read: Isaiah 58:1–12; Micah 6:6–8

Theme: The fruit of true devotion

Fasting and solemn observance are empty if they do not produce mercy, justice, generosity, and humble obedience. God desires transformed lives, not outward religious appearance alone.

Reflect:

- Does my worship make me more compassionate?
- Is there someone whose need I have overlooked?
- Where is pride resisting God's correction?

Practice: Quietly help someone without seeking acknowledgment.

Prayer:

Lord, deliver me from empty religion. Teach me to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. Let my devotion bear good fruit. Amen.

Day 8 — Our Great High Priest

Read: Leviticus 16:1–22; Hebrews 4:14–16

Theme: Drawing near through Jesus

The Day of Atonement points to humanity's need for cleansing and a mediator. As Christians, we approach God with confidence because Jesus is our compassionate High Priest.

Reflect:

- Do I approach God confidently or hide from Him in shame?
- What burden do I need to bring before His throne of grace?

Practice: Picture yourself placing that burden before Jesus and receiving the mercy and help He promises.

Prayer:

Jesus, my great High Priest, thank You for opening the way into God's presence. Help me draw near with confidence, trusting Your mercy rather than my own merit. Amen.

Day 9 — The Better Sacrifice

Read: Hebrews 9:11–15, 24–28; Hebrews 10:11–22

Theme: Atonement completed

Animal sacrifices had to be offered repeatedly, but Jesus offered Himself once for all. Our hope does not rest in the perfection of our repentance but in the perfection of His sacrifice.

Reflect:

- Am I trying to punish myself for something Christ has forgiven?
- Where am I trusting my performance instead of His finished work?

Practice: Write down a confessed sin that still weighs on you. Beneath it write: “Paid in full through Jesus Christ.” Then destroy the paper as a reminder that you do not need to keep carrying it.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for the new and living way You opened for me. Cleanse my conscience and teach me to rest in Your completed sacrifice. Amen.

Day 10 — Cleansed and Consecrated

Read: Leviticus 16:29–34; Romans 12:1–2; 2 Corinthians 5:17–21

Theme: Beginning again

Yom Kippur is a solemn day, but for the believer it also points toward extraordinary hope. Forgiveness is not merely the removal of yesterday’s guilt; it is an invitation to live differently tomorrow.

Reflect:

- What has God shown me during these ten days?
- What do I now need to surrender to Him?
- How is He calling me to live in the coming season?

Practice: Write a brief prayer of consecration. Include one habit to release, one practice to begin, and one relationship to tend more faithfully.

Prayer:

Father, I present myself to You anew. Thank You for the atoning work of Jesus. Renew my mind, order my steps, and let my life reflect Your mercy, holiness, and love. Amen.

