

ASSEMBLE..JER. 4:3-5

In our scripture to day God is calling upon Israel to Return. This indicates that at some time in the past they had been with HIM but that at this particular time they had gone from HIM. Sad to say, this is a picture very common to humanity. There is such a need for constancy. In most any line of work, building a house, meetings in the church, and in a thousand other engagements it has to be said, "He did not show up today." The most critical place it shows up is in our spiritual life. That happened here and caused God to say "RETURN"

Certain things were to be done to save them from going into captivity.

One thing was to break up the fallow ground. This was a figure of speech, of course, and has a great meaning for us to day. Fallow ground means ground that was once cultivated but for some time has been lying out. Israel was like that, and needed to come back to their former activity.

(Many time the land once cultivated and now fallow is more capable of production than some being cultivated) WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO US? In any congregation there is quite a list of inactive members. One thing that we need to do to get back close to God is to cultivate that inactive part of our membership. You see how that this will bring you closer to God...Cultivate them and get them active and you receive a spiritual blessing.

Thinking a little further we need to cultivate that outside row. You will notice that a good farmer plows on beyond his last row. This destroys insects that harbor in the weeds and grass and that destroy crops. This takes you into the non Christian world. You can easily see that by getting into the non church group and doing some cultivating you are going to destroy many things that influence church members to sin. The fence corners and new ground that you take in for a time, at least, produces more than the old land. *Then we need to clear new ground which may produce more*
But such does not have to be. Diversified farming has possibility of making the old land and the fallow ground just as productive as new ground. All old ground should be productive but this does not mean that new ground..new converts are not to be sought and won.

a. Another point brought out in our scripture to day is the matter of assembly. In our country we have the right for assembly. It is remarkable how much is done by these assemblies. When you want to put over a drive for Red Cross building fund for a church, or some improvement for the town you usually call an assembly..a mass meeting etc.

From a religious standpoint we need meeting to spread the knowledge of God. Back in Isaiah 45:20 we read: "Assemble yourselves and come; draw ye together ye that are escaped of the nations. They have no knowledge that carry the wood of their graven images and pray to a God that cannot save."

In Joel 2:15-16.. We hear again, "Blow the trumpet in Zion sanctify a feast, call a solemn assembly..assemble the old men, gather the children, and those that nurse. Let the bridegroom go forth from his chamber and the bride from her closet..let the ministers weep between the porch and the altar and say, 'Lord spare thy people.'"

Then Heb. 10:25 we read, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is." All of this would indicate that assembling for worship has never been a unanimous thing...but required exhortation, *all along*

Our scripture lesson to day was spoken before the Captivity...this was done to keep them out but they went on did they not?

To save them from Captivity they were asked to do certain things:

1. Swear that the Lord liveth..there is a God..not be Atheists.
2. Bind themselves to God and show that God lives in
 - a. Truth, b. Judgement, c. Righteousness.

Now in getting people bound to God we should so break the fallow ground that we may produce..Church attendance, joyful financial support to the church, and family altars.

We need to organize and assemble to keep out invaders such as dirty literature, drink, dope, vulgar minds, and spiritual indifference.