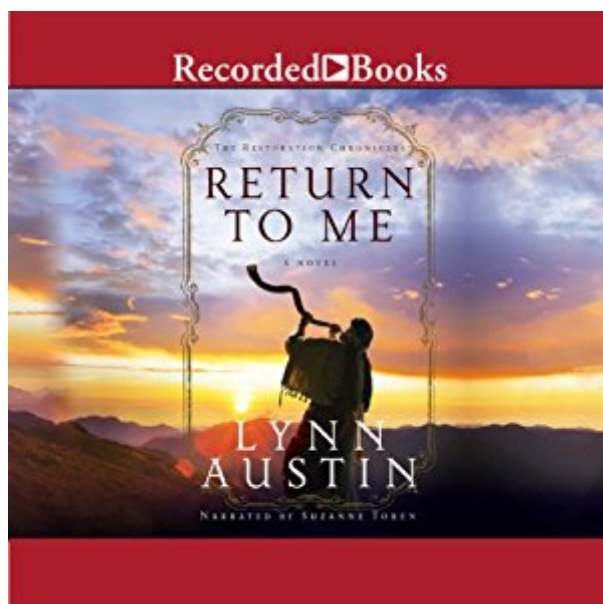


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# Return To Me: The Restoration Chronicles, Book 1



## Synopsis

After years of watching his children and grandchildren wander from their faith, Iddo's prayers are answered: King Cyrus is allowing God's chosen people to return to Jerusalem. Jubilant, he joyfully prepares for their departure, only to learn that his family, grown comfortable in the pagan culture of Babylon, wants to remain. Zechariah, Iddo's oldest grandson, feels torn between his grandfather's ancient beliefs and the comfort and success his father enjoys in Babylon. But he soon begins to hear the voice of God, encouraging him to return to the land given to his forefathers. Bringing to life the biblical books of Ezra and Nehemiah, *Return to Me* tells the compelling story of Iddo and Zechariah, the women who love them, and the faithful followers who struggle to rebuild their lives in obedience to the God who beckons them home.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I love Biblical fiction. I truly do! Now I know you may think that reading Biblical fiction is not the true account from the Bible and by and large it is not. Biblical fiction is a story taken from the Bible and told from an authors perspective. Which of course does not always keep with the true account of that same story in the Bible. However when I read a story based on the Bible it always causes me to dig deeper into the actual Biblical account of the story. I want to get out my Bible and read for myself the account of the story and find the true meaning of the story. I want to research the story and learn from it. Lynn Austin does exactly that with her newest Book *Return to Me*, Book One of The Restoration Chronicles. I loved this book! I loved the richness of the story, the descriptions of

Babylon and Jerusalem. The struggles of the Jewish people as they return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. It never occurred to me that even though the Jewish people were exiled to Babylon and grieved and longed for their return to Jerusalem, that many had become complacent. The Jewish people had been exiled to Babylon for 70 years. Many were settled there with their lives and families. They wanted to stay. To remain with what was familiar to them. They were frightened of change. Afraid of the future, the unknown and the long arduous journey back to Jerusalem. It was sad to me to see Iddo's own sons not want to return to their homeland. The struggle between families and how torn so many were. Once they arrived back in Jerusalem there were more struggles. What I took away from this story was to trust God always, in all things and in all ways, regardless of what is going on around us or what seems to be nearly impossible.

Iddo was among the last group of Jews to be taken in exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. Fifty years later, he is still haunted by the cruel memories when Jerusalem was sieged and long trip to Babylon. Through the years he managed to find some happiness through marriage, children, and grandchildren; but he has always longed to return to Jerusalem. Now that the Persians have taken control of the empire, a proclamation has been issued that they may return to rebuild the temple. However, many have grown comfortable with their life in Babylon. Iddo and the elders try to persuade as many as they can to make the journey, which ends up being 42,000. Even Iddo's own sons don't want to leave. His grandson Zechariah is torn between following the Torah and obeying his parents, until he has a supernatural experience at his Bar Mitzvah that persuades his choice to go to Jerusalem. However, the Samaritans living outside of the rubble of Jerusalem are hostile toward their new neighbors and plot ways to get the Jews to leave the land. Through many years, politics, and trusting God, they work to rebuild the temple and the hope of the Jewish nation. This book is a reminder of how comfortable that we can get in our own lives and not want to follow God's calling. Even after hearing the stories of Jerusalem from previous generations, several of the people didn't want to leave the life they had in Babylon. I think this corresponds easily to today's world as well. People get so comfortable that they don't want to change. But sometimes change is just what we need. Lynn Austin does a great job bringing the Old Testament books of Nehemiah, Haggai, and Zechariah to life in her book.

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