

Hosea 14:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.

Analysis

O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Opening plea: return to God. Cause: fallen by iniquity. The Hebrew shub (return) means repent, turn back. Acknowledging that iniquity caused the fall is crucial first step. True repentance recognizes sin as cause of problems, not circumstances or others. Lamentations 5:16 confesses: Woe unto us, that we have sinned. Only honest confession enables restoration. Christ calls: Repent and believe the gospel (Mark 1:15).

Historical Context

After chapters of judgment, God offers restoration path. Return indicates Israel had departed; fallen shows consequences. The call to return demonstrates grace - despite deserved judgment, God offers mercy. Modern application: repentance remains pathway to restoration. God doesn't wait for perfection before offering return, but return requires honest acknowledgment of sin. Only Spirit enables genuine repentance producing transformation.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that I have fallen by my iniquity (not circumstances) enable genuine repentance?
2. What does God's call to return despite deserved judgment teach about grace's availability?

Interlinear Text

שׁוּבוּ לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי יָשַׁלְתָּ לָתָּה
return **O Israel** H5704 **unto the LORD** **thy God** H3588 **for thou hast fallen**
H7725 H3478 H3068 H430 H3782

בְּעֲוֹנֶיךָ:
by thine iniquity
H5771

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 6:1 (References Lord): Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

Hosea 12:6 (References God): Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.

Jeremiah 4:1 (References Lord): If thou wilt return, O Israel, saith the LORD, return unto me: and if thou wilt put away thine abominations out of my sight, then shalt thou not remove.

Hosea 13:9 (References Israel): O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.

Lamentations 5:16 (Sin): The crown is fallen from our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned!