

# Hosea 2:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths.

## Analysis

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God's intervention: 'Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths.' God blocks Israel's pursuit of false lovers through obstacles—thorns and walls preventing access. This is merciful frustration: God thwarts idolatry to bring Israel back. The imagery recalls Eden's curse (Genesis 3:18, thorns) and Israel's conquest challenges (Numbers 33:55, Canaanites as 'thorns in your sides'). What seems punitive is protective—preventing further damage from spiritual adultery. C.S. Lewis wrote 'Pain is God's megaphone to rouse a deaf world.' When prosperity and ease fail to produce repentance, God uses hardship. Verse 7 shows the purpose: frustrated in pursuing lovers, she returns to her first husband. This demonstrates God's redemptive discipline: He doesn't merely punish but corrects to restore. Hebrews 12:6-11 explains: God disciplines those He loves, painful now but producing righteousness later.

## Historical Context

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Historical 'thorns and walls' included political instability, economic troubles, military defeats, and Assyrian pressure—all frustrating Israel's attempts to secure blessing through alliances and idolatry. Each failed strategy (trusting Egypt, paying tribute to Assyria, worshiping Baal) should have driven Israel back to YHWH. Yet they persisted in rebellion until total collapse. God's discipline escalated when lesser measures failed. Some individuals did repent (the remnant), demonstrating that hardship can produce repentance. Jeremiah later used similar

imagery: 'I will hedge up her way with thorns' (Lamentations 3:7, different context). This shows God's consistent pattern: He frustrates sinful pursuits to turn hearts homeward.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How have obstacles and frustrations in my life been God's merciful intervention to prevent spiritual adultery?
2. When I face 'thorns and walls' blocking my plans, do I respond with repentance or redoubled effort to pursue what God opposes?

## Interlinear Text

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הִנְנִי לְךָ	שֶׁ הֵ	אֶת	דֶּרֶךְ הָ	בְּסִיר יָם
H3651	H2005	H7753	H853	H1870
	Therefore behold I will hedge	up thy way	with thorns	
וְגִדְרֹתַי	אֶת	וְנִתְיבֹתַי יָהּ	לֹא	תִמְצָא:
H1443	H853	H1448	H3808	H4672
and make		her paths	that she shall not find	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 19:8** (Parallel theme): He hath fenced up my way that I cannot pass, and he hath set darkness in my paths.

**Job 3:23** (Parallel theme): Why is light given to a man whose way is hid, and whom God hath hedged in?

