

# 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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בָּסֵר יְמִינְךָ	עַל	אֶת	שְׁמַע	הַנְּבִיא	לְכָ	אַתָּה	לְכָ	הַנְּבִיא	לְכָ
H3651	H2005	<b>Therefore behold I will hedge</b>	H853						
			H7753						
				up thy way	with thorns				
				H1870	H5518				
לְ	אֵ	וְנִתְיַבֹּתْ	יְבָ	גַּדְלָה	אֶת	וְגַדְרָתָה	תִּמְצָא:		
and make	H853	H1448	her paths	H3808	<b>that she shall not find</b>	H4672			
	H1443		H5410						

## 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?

