

# Hosea 2:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now.

## Analysis

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Desired repentance: 'And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now.' God's obstacles (v. 6) produce futility: pursuing lovers without success. This is covenant curse (Deuteronomy 28:29, 'you shall grope at noonday as the blind gropes in darkness'). Frustration should prompt reflection: 'then was it better with me than now.' Comparison between relationship with YHWH and pursuit of idols reveals emptiness of false worship. 'Return to my first husband' shows repentance as homecoming—recognizing the covenant relationship forsaken. Yet context questions sincerity: is this pragmatic (seeking benefits) or genuine (grieving sin)? Verses 8-13 suggest shallow repentance motivated by desire to escape consequences rather than sorrow over offense. True repentance grieves sin itself, not merely consequences. Only Spirit-wrought regeneration produces such repentance.

## Historical Context

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Historically, Israel's 'returns' to YHWH were often superficial and temporary. Kings like Jehu destroyed Baal worship yet maintained Jeroboam's golden calves (2 Kings 10:29-31). Reforms under various kings didn't produce lasting change. Hosea 6:1-4

presents Israel's shallow repentance: quick 'let us return to the LORD' followed by God's complaint 'your goodness is as a morning cloud.' External religious activity doesn't equal heart transformation. Josiah's later reforms (640-609 BC in Judah) came too late and too shallow to prevent exile (2 Kings 23:25-27). This demonstrates that religious activity divorced from genuine heart change doesn't satisfy God. Jesus condemned such religion in Matthew 15:8: 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.'

## **Related Passages**

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## **Study Questions**

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1. Is my repentance motivated by desire to escape consequences or genuine sorrow for offending God?
2. How do I discern between pragmatic 'returning' to God for benefits versus true heart transformation?

## Interlinear Text

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וְרִדְפָּה	אֶת	מֵאַהֲבֵי יְהוָה	וְלֹא	תִּשְׁיֹג	אֶת־
And she shall follow	H853	after her lovers	H3808	but she shall not overtake	H853
H7291		H157		H5381	
וּבְקִשׁ תֵּם	וְלֹא	תִּמְצֹא	וְאָמַרְהָ		
them and she shall seek	H3808	them but shall not find	them then shall she say		
H1245		H4672	H559		
אֶלֶּכָּה	וְאָנֹשׁ וְבָהּ	אֶל	אִישׁ י	הָרִאשׁוֹן	כִּי
H1980	and return	H413	husband	to my first	H3588
	H7725		H376	H7223	
					ט וְ
					for then was it better
					H2896
אֲנִי	לְ	יְמִעְתָּהּ:			
H0	H227	with me than now			
		H6258			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 2:2** (Love): Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown.

**Hosea 5:13** (Parallel theme): When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound.

**Jeremiah 14:22** (Parallel theme): Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not thou he, O LORD our God? therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these things.

**Ezekiel 23:4** (Parallel theme): And the names of them were Aholah the elder, and Aholibah her sister: and they were mine, and they bare sons and daughters. Thus were their names; Samaria is Aholah, and Jerusalem Aholibah.

**Hosea 13:6** (Parallel theme): According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted; therefore have they forgotten me.

