

# Hosea 6:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**Come, and let us return unto the LORD** (לְכָה וְשׁוּבֵה אֶל־יְהוָה)—The verb *שׁוב* (shuv, 'return/repent') appears 15 times in Hosea, central to its message. But verses 1-3 are shallow repentance, verbal formulas without heart-change—exposed in verse 4: 'Your goodness is as a morning cloud.' **He hath torn, and he will heal us**—they assume automatic restoration after brief suffering. True repentance requires broken-heartedness (Psalm 51:17), not bargaining with God. Israel wanted God's benefits without covenant faithfulness, like Gomer wanting Hosea's provision while pursuing lovers. Verses 1-3 are insincere liturgy, not genuine teshuvah (return).

## Historical Context

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This call to repentance—'Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us'—may represent either genuine repentance or superficial religious sentiment during Israel's final unstable decades. Following verses suggest the latter: Israel's love was 'as a morning cloud' that quickly vanished. Hosea prophesied during a period when Israel experienced repeated military defeats and political upheavals (six kings in thirty years, four assassinated), yet responded with temporary religious enthusiasm rather than deep covenant renewal. This pattern of shallow repentance without lasting transformation characterized the northern kingdom's final generation before Assyrian conquest obliterated the nation.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does Hosea 6:1 deepen your understanding of God's character, particularly His holiness, justice, and mercy?
2. What specific attitudes, thought patterns, or behaviors does this verse call you to examine and change in light of the gospel?
3. How does this passage point forward to Christ and His redemptive work, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?

## Interlinear Text

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לְכָה וּבָהּ אֶל יְהוָה הַיְהִי כִּי אֵת הַזֶּה  
H1980 and let us return H413 unto the LORD H3588 H1931 for he hath torn  
H7725 H3068 H2963

נְאָמֵן כִּי יְרַפֵּא אֶתָּנוּ  
and he will heal us he hath smitten and he will bind us up  
H7495 H5221 H2280

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 32:39** (Parallel theme): See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

**Job 5:18** (Parallel theme): For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole.

**1 Samuel 2:6** (References Lord): The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

**Hosea 14:4** (Parallel theme): I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

**Isaiah 55:7** (References Lord): Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

**Isaiah 2:3** (References Lord): And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

**Job 34:29** (Parallel theme): When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? and when he hideth his face, who then can behold him? whether it be done against a nation, or against a man only:

**Jeremiah 30:17** (References Lord): For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after.

**Hosea 14:1** (References Lord): O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.

**Jeremiah 3:22** (References Lord): Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the LORD our God.