

# “WHEN ONE CANNOT RETURN UNTO GOD”

Hosea 5:1-7

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## INTRODUCTION

“Then they will seek the Lord and not find Him.”

What a dreadful scenario! What led up to this?

### I. RESPONSIBLE RULERS—A threefold call to “give heed” (v. 1)

#### A. Persons

1. Priests
2. House of Israel
3. House of the king

#### B. Places

1. Mizpah—High place east of Jordan
2. Tabor—High place west of Jordan in Jezreel Valley

*Instead of protecting the people and making them secure, they allure them and trap them.*

### II. REBELLIOUS REVOLTERS (2a) [Rebels, revolters, apostates]

They have “gone deep in slaughter (and depravity)—both actual murders and sacrifices—esp. child sacrifices.

### III. TERRIBLE TREACHERY (7a)

To the **covenant** and to **marriage**; “strange children” are those not trained for God, but for the enemy.

### IV. PROMISCUOUS PERVERSION (3-4)

A. Divine Knowledge (3)—Contrast what God know (3a) with what they do not know (4).

1. “I know”
2. “Not hidden”—see Heb. 4:12-13.
3. Promiscuity and defilement

B. Inner Perversion (4, 5a)

1. No knowledge of God (4c)
2. A “spirit of harlotry” (4b)—including demonic control and alcohol
3. Corrupt and controlling deeds (4a)

Their deeds will not allow them to return to **their** God.

4. Pervasive Pride (5a)

- V.     **RIGHTEOUS RETRIBUTION (2B, 5B, 6, 7B)**
- A. Divine Chastener (2b)—cf. “judgment” in v. 1
  - B. Stumbling to ruin (5b)
  - C. Forsaken and abandoned (6)
    - 1. Attempt to “seek the Lord” (sacrifices, feasts, etc.)
      - a. Hypocrisy—not sincere (Hos. 6:6; Is. 1:11ff)
      - b. False rites and forms and places
- All this refers to the best of their religious ritual!**
- 2. The Lord will not be found by them.
  - 3. The Lord has withdrawn from them.
- What an awful dilemma!**
- D. Consumed by their false Religion (“new moons”—7b)
    - 1. They themselves
    - 2. Their land (“portions”)

#### CONCLUSION

If you sell yourself to your perversions, the day will come when **you can no longer “find” the Lord.**

Your heart will be filled with your lusts and perversions.

Your deeds will be too “precious” to give them up.

Your pride won’t permit you to admit you are wrong.