

Hosea 12

King James Version (KJV)

12 Ephraim feedeth on wind, and followeth after the east wind: he daily increaseth lies and desolation; and they do make a covenant with the Assyrians, and oil is carried into Egypt. (Last verse of Chapter 11 should have been in this chapter, before this verse)

(Wind cannot feed people. The East wind came up off of the desert. It was all just a lot of hot air. It destroyed their crops through its dryness)

(They allowed themselves to be deceived by Satan, and went into his captivity. Satan is the destroyer. He produces nothing but destruction)

²The LORD hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him. (Jacob stands for all 12 tribes. Israel fell first; but Judah also fell 200 years later)

(according to his doings – they did it to themselves. God is always fair. We all get what we deserve)

³He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God: Malachi, Romans-11 (Jacob I loved, Esau I hated - because of their behavior during the First Age)

(Esau cared nothing about his heritage or about God. He only cared about himself. Jacob was faithful to God, so God gave him the victory over his brother)

⁴Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us; (God won, but changed Jacob's name to Israel. This honor from God is why the verse says that Jacob prevailed) Genesis-32:28

⁵Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD is his memorial.

⁶Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment and wait on thy God continually. (Do what's just and right, and be patient for Jesus' return. God's plan will unfold in its due time)

⁷He is a merchant, the balances of deceit are in his hand: he loveth to oppress. (The merchant has a moral obligation to deal fairly with his

customers. If he makes an honest profit, God will multiply his wealth with blessings)

(Instead, he steals from his customers with false scales. He believes that that's the way to be successful in business. It's the "get rich quick" mentality of the world. Ill gotten gains don't last. They are not worth giving up your reputation and your character)

⁸And Ephraim said, Yet I am become rich, I have found me out substance: in all my labours they shall find none iniquity in me that were sin. (Riches don't pardon sin. The ways of the world don't bring salvation. Ephraim is only fooling himself. Doing corrupt business only results in failure. Ill gotten gains don't bring happiness and peace of mind)

⁹And I that am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt will yet make thee to dwell in tabernacles, as in the days of the solemn feast. (Only by our repentance, and returning to God will we be able to find true happiness and peace of mind)

¹⁰I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets. (God sent prophet after prophet to teach us. And yet, most people won't listen. They call it superstition and continue in the crooked ways of the world)

¹¹Is there iniquity in Gilead? surely they are vanity: they sacrifice bullocks in Gilgal; yea, their altars are as heaps in the furrows of the fields. (They talk about holiness; yet they don't obey the true Word of God. In Gilgal, they chose a man king <Saul> over God as the true King. He turned out to be a total disgrace, like so many men do. Only God is without error. HE can rule justly and wisely)

¹²And Jacob fled into the country of Syria, and Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he kept sheep. (He went there in order to marry an Adamic women, just as Isaac had done before him. Got told them not to marry into the heathen tribes that were in their lands)

¹³And by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved. (This was Moses. God sent Moses to bring Israel out of bondage in Egypt. Although Egypt was the super power of the world at that time; their power was nothing compared to the power of Almighty God. Pharaoh learned that lesson the hard way)

¹⁴ Ephraim provoked him to anger most bitterly: therefore shall he leave his blood upon him, and his reproach shall his LORD return unto him. (This was Jeroboam and his golden calves worship. That led Israel into idolatry, from which they never recovered)

(Both Pharaoh and Jeroboam chose to oppose God. They learned the hard way that opposing God leads to ruin and disaster. We can learn from their mistake; and yet most of the world hasn't learned a thing. They continue to chase the lusts of the world while mocking God. Judgment day is coming. Everyone will receive what they deserve)