

# HOSEA 12 vs 1

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700 years earlier, Moses asked: O Israel, what does the Lord God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in His ways; and love Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and your soul; and to keep His commandments for your benefit here on earth. Only 10 commands and no more, even a child could do that – Deut.10. So how did the House of Israel do?

<sup>1</sup> **Ephraim feeds on wind, and follows after the east wind** / the doubly blessed **leader of the multitude of nations**, he feeds on vain hopes, which do not nourish, but make him look like a fool; and pursues what he cannot catch; the east wind blows westward; **his brother would become the great nation**:

**he daily increases lies and desolation and they make a covenant with the Assyrians, and oil is carried into Egypt** / in his despair, he multiplies his lies; with his promises, his cheesy bribes are ready; those he hopes to make his allies, will quickly become his ruin: this is feeding on wind; this is increasing in lies and desolation;

<sup>2</sup> **Also the LORD has a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob...** according to his sleazy ways / the Household of Judah was to be **His praise**; and Jacob, birth name of Israel is used in the OT when the Lord emphasizes: the scoundrel and crooked charlatan he was most of his life;

**according to his dark doings He will reward him.**

Hosea reminds the household of Israel, 3 memorable moments in their father Jacob's life:

**First...**

<sup>3</sup> **He took his brother by the heel in the womb** / Jacob was already contending with his twin brother in his mother's womb; the elder will serve the younger,

**and by his strength He had power with God** / referring to his name: **Israel** = **ruled by God**; the Lord of glory... can work with the hot or the cold men and women called by His Name; it is the lukewarm who make the Lord want to puke; Jacob I loved; Esau I hated:

**Second...**

<sup>4</sup> **He wrestled with an angel, and prevailed; he wept, and made supplication to Him** / at Mahanaim, he triumphed for a while – Genesis 35; yet tears and prayers were the weapons of this saint: wrestling like a champion while weeping like a child... the greatest courage mixed with the greatest tenderness always obtain the most glorious victories for the Lord – Matthew Henry:

**Third...**



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he found Him in **Bethel**, and there He spoke with us / He found Jacob in the **House of God**... and spoke to the lineage of Jacob; God promised: his seed will be as the dust of the earth – which means: the number of his kids will be a lot. Aren't you glad, our God speaks, His favorite words are: grace and peace.

<sup>5</sup> **Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD is his memorial** / the Lord of hosts; the **Boss** in charge of all things animate and inanimate... who led him and fed him all the days of his life -- **Genesis 48**.

And the lineage of those **ruled by God**... knowing all this; Hosea says...

<sup>6</sup> **So return to Your God: keep mercy and justice, and wait on Your God continually** / Hosea says to Ephraim... keep your eyes on the Lord; you over-rated criminal;

<sup>7</sup> **a kenneh in whose hands are balances of deceit: who loves to defraud** / literally, a Canaanite... the grandson of Ham cursed by Noah; and this might be a word play; the Lord says Ephraim is no better than a deceiving Canaanite.

<sup>8</sup> **Ephraim** boasts, **I am rich, I have found wealth for myself: you will not find any iniquity or sin in me** / this son of a scoundrel, who sounds more like a Laodicean says, you will not find iniquity, or injustice or error in me; but Moses already said: it is the Lord who gives us the power to gain wealth – **Deut. 8**.

<sup>9</sup> **I am the LORD Your God since the land of Egypt, who will make you again dwell in tents, as in the days of the solemn feast** / confused Ephraim might boast, but God reminds him He will be around until the last 3 days are no longer shadows of things to come, but fulfilled in Christ, so pay attention.

<sup>10</sup> **I spoke by the prophets, I gave many visions, and through the prophets gave parables** / so God gave many convincing reasons for him to pay attention to every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord; He spoke in bits and pieces through the prophets, but in the last days **through His Son**.

<sup>11</sup> **Is there iniquity in Gilead? Surely, its people are worthless: in Gilgal, they sacrifice bulls; their altars will be like stone piles in a plowed field.**

<sup>12</sup> **Now crooked Jacob fled to the country of Syria; righteous Israel worked for a wife, and for a wife he kept sheep** / this same guy: hot-headed Jacob fled; while warm-hearted Israel worked; and the Lord God gets to figure him out, as He does the billions of people who live in His creation.

<sup>13</sup> **And by prophets the LORD brought Israel from Egypt; and by prophets was he preserved** / the children of Israel only survived because Moses, Joshua, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos, Hosea and all the other faithful prophets preserved them.

<sup>14</sup> **Ephraim** has provoked to bitter anger so, the LORD will leave his bloodguilt on him, and repay him for his contempt / despite his honored position and many warnings, he will be repaid at a time to be determined by the Lord; now, sooner than we can imagine.

**We are grateful to God that the Saudi govt has preserved the Mountain of Moses.**