

Hosea 12:1-14 **God's Charge Against Israel & Judah**

¹ "**Ephraim** feeds on the wind, And pursues the east wind; He daily increases lies and desolation. Also they make a covenant with the Assyrians, And oil is carried to Egypt.

² "Yahweh (The Lord) also brings a charge against **Judah**, And will punish Jacob according to his ways; According to his deeds He will recompense him.

³ He took his brother by the heel in the womb, And in his strength he struggled with Elohiym (God).

⁴ Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed; He wept, and sought favor from Him. He found Him in Bethel, And there He spoke to us —

⁵ That is, Yahweh Elohey Tsebavta (the Lord God of hosts). Yahweh (The Lord) is His memorable name.

⁶ So you, by the help of Eloheyka (your God), return; Observe mercy and justice, And wait on Eloheyka (your God) continually.

⁷ "A cunning Canaanite! Deceitful scales are in his hand; He loves to oppress.

⁸ And **Ephraim** said, 'Surely I have become rich, I have found wealth for myself; In all my labors They shall find in me no iniquity that is sin.'

⁹ "But I am Yahweh Eloheyka (the Lord your God), Ever since the land of Egypt; I will again make you dwell in tents, As in the days of the appointed feast.

¹⁰ I have also spoken by the prophets, And have multiplied visions; I have given symbols through the witness of the prophets."

¹¹ Though Gilead has idols — Surely they are vanity — Though they sacrifice bulls in Gilgal, Indeed their altars shall be heaps in the furrows of the field.

¹² **Jacob** fled to the country of Syria; Israel served for a spouse, And for a wife he tended sheep.

¹³ By a prophet Yahweh (the Lord) brought Israel out of Egypt, And by a prophet he was preserved.

¹⁴ Ephraim provoked Him to anger most bitterly; Therefore Adoney (his Lord) will leave the guilt of his bloodshed upon him, And return his reproach upon him.

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Facts Revealed:

God's Charge Against Ephraim (Northern kingdom of Israel)

✧ The Hebrew text begins with the last verse of the previous chapter, namely:

"Ephraim has encircled Me with lies, And the house of Israel with deceit; But Judah still walks with El (God), Even with the Holy One who is faithful." [Hosea 11:12]

✧ Here we see that though Israel had turned away from Yahweh with lies and deception continually, still Judah is vacillating between Yahweh and idolatry.

✧ "**Ephraim** feeds on the wind, And pursues the east wind; He daily increases lies and desolation. Also they make a covenant with the Assyrians, And oil is carried to Egypt. [Hosea 12:1]

✧ Ephraim (Israel) has turned their back on Yahweh since the kingdom was divided between Jeroboam and Rehoboam after the death of Solomon. [1 Kings 11:26 through 12:33]

- ✧ Jeroboam introduced idolatry to the ten tribes of his northern kingdom beginning with the golden calves at Dan and Bethel to encourage the people to reject Yahweh. [1 Kings 12:26-33]
- ✧ This idolatry they never turned away from until they were carried away by the Assyrians.
- ✧ Yahweh said that the deceptive influence of lies and idolatry is chasing after the wind.
- ✧ The daily increases in their lies brought on their desolation.
- ✧ Instead of trusting in Yahweh, they turned to other nations for their security, Assyria and Egypt. Much as it is today.

God's Charge Against Judah (Southern kingdom of Israel)

- ✧ "Yahweh (The Lord) also brings a charge against **Judah**, And will punish Jacob according to his ways; According to his deeds He will recompense him. [Hosea 12:2]
- ✧ Judah has greatly been influenced against Yahweh by the sins of the northern kingdom, thus setting themselves up for the judgment and wrath of God.
- ✧ Judah will also be judged according to his deeds.

Brief history of Israel

- ✧ He took his brother by the heel in the womb [Genesis 25:19-28], And in his strength he struggled with Elohiym (God). Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed; He wept, and sought favor from Him. [Genesis 32:24-30].

He (Yahweh) found Him (Jacob) in Bethel, And there He (Yahweh) spoke to us — That is, Yahweh Elohey Tsebavta (the Lord God of hosts). Yahweh (The Lord) is His memorable name.

So you, by the help of Eloheyka (your God), return; Observe mercy and justice, And wait on Eloheyka (your God) continually. [Hosea 12:3-6]

- ✧ This brief reference to the history of Jacob whose name was changed to Israel at Peniel.
- ✧ **Yahweh** is the name of the God of Israel, the name was revealed to Moses after Pharaoh had called for the Israelites to make bricks without straw being provided. [Exodus 6:1-3]
- ✧ **Yahweh is then God's memorable name.**
- ✧ The solution to Israel's problem facing the judgment of Yahweh is to repent, observe mercy and justice, and wait on God. [Hosea 12:6, Micah 6:8]
- ✧ "A cunning Canaanite! Deceitful scales are in his hand; He loves to oppress. And **Ephraim** said, 'Surely I have become rich, I have found wealth for myself; In all my labors They shall find in me no iniquity that is sin.' [Hosea 12:7-8]
- ✧ Yahweh calls Israel a cunning Canaanite who is doing unrighteous business with false scales to cheat his buyers and sellers for unjust gain.
- ✧ In his self righteous arrogant pride Israel claims to be sinless.
- ✧ "But I am Yahweh Eloheyka (the Lord your God), Ever since the land of Egypt; I will again make you dwell in tents, As in the days of the appointed feast. I have also spoken by the prophets, And have multiplied visions; I have given symbols through the witness of the prophets." [Hosea 12:9-10]
- ✧ Yahweh has been their God from the time they left Egypt under Moses.
- ✧ Yahweh has been witness of all the misdeeds of the people and their leaders.
- ✧ Yahweh has been faithful to call the people to repentance through all the prophets He sent to them with visions and symbols.
- ✧ Because of their reckless way of living, Yahweh will cause them to be taken from the Land of Israel and they will live in tents like they did while wandering in the wilderness.
- ✧ Though Gilead has idols — Surely they are vanity — Though they sacrifice bulls in Gilgal, Indeed their altars shall be heaps in the furrows of the field. [Hosea 12:11]
- ✧ The idolatry of Israel is vanity, and their sacrifices to them is not acceptable to Yahweh.
- ✧ Their altars will become rubble in the fields.

- ✧ **Jacob** fled to the country of Syria; Israel served for a spouse, And for a wife he tended sheep. [\[Hosea 12:12, Genesis 28:1 through 29:30\]](#)
- ✧ By a prophet (Moses) Yahweh (the Lord) brought Israel out of Egypt, And by a prophet (Moses) he was preserved. [\[Hosea 12:13\]](#)
- ✧ Ephraim provoked Him (Yahweh) to anger most bitterly; Therefore Adoney (his Lord) will leave the guilt of his bloodshed upon him, And return his reproach upon him.
 - ✧ Living according to human philosophy provokes Yahweh and brings on His judgment and wrath.
 - ✧ Today, the world is living according to human values which fly in the face of Almighty God.
 - ✧ We are rapidly moving in rebellion against the righteous moral laws of God and the time of His wrath is approaching speedily which will be expressed in the Great Tribulation.
 - ✧ The nations of the world need to repent of their sins and return to the Lord God Most High.
 - ✧ Yahweh's judgment is just around the corner.