

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 418 – Ephraim Feedeth On Wind Through Anger Most Bitterly (Hosea 12:1-14)

1. As this chapter begins, had Ephraim leaned towards a return to the Lord?

No, they have grown worse and have gone to Assyria and Egypt instead of the Lord: *“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”* (**Hosea 12:1**).

- The phrase “Ephraim feedeth on the wind” (**Hosea 8:7**).
- The phrasing of the east wind doesn’t represent good either (**Genesis 41:27, Exodus 10:13, Psalms 48:7, Jeremiah 18:17, Ezekiel 17:10, Ezekiel 19:12, Ezekiel 27:26, and Hosea 13:15**).
- We marked their deception in the previous chapter (**Hosea 11:12**).
- The increase of desolations is about how they looked to the wrong places for their healing to no avail (**Hosea 5:13**).
- They should have known it was vain to look to man for help (**Psalms 60:11, Psalms 108:12, and Isaiah 30:7**).
- In the future from these events, Jeremiah wrote: *“As for us, our eyes as yet failed for our vain help: in our watching we have watched for a nation that could not save us”* (**Lamentations 4:17**).

2. What did the Lord plan to punish Judah and Israel according to?

According to their ways/doings: *“The LORD hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him”* (**Hosea 12:2**).

- The language we saw in chapter four (**Hosea 4:1**) appears again here. The Lord having a controversy with a people is not good for them (**Isaiah 34:1-8, Jeremiah 25:31, and Micah 6:1-16**).
- In the previous chapter, Judah was good (**Hosea 11:12**). This indicates a time period between the chapters.
- As is often taught in the Scriptures, the Lord’s judgment against them is according to their ways and doings (**Jeremiah 17:10, Hosea 4:9, and Zechariah 1:6**).
- This is ultimately the method of judgment even at the end of the world (**Matthew 25:31-46, John 5:28-29, Romans 2:1-10, and II Corinthians 5:10**).
- Though, we know there was a remnant (**II Kings 19:30-31, Joel 2:32, and Romans 11:1-5**) and a plan for their future (**Matthew 1:21**).

3. Who is God referring to in Hosea 12:3-4?

Jacob [Israel]: *“(3) He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God: (4) Yea, 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”* (**Hosea 12:3-4**).

- He took his brother by the heel in the womb (**Genesis 25:21-28**).
- The angel account (**Genesis 32:22-30**). *We know he did not see God the Father (**Exodus 33:20, John 1:18, and I John 4:12**).

4. Since the Lord is the memorial for Israel, what should that have prompted them to do?

They should have turned to God, mercy, etc.: *“(5) Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD is his memorial. (6) Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually”* (**Hosea 12:5-6**).

- The Lord is their memorial (**Exodus 3:15, Psalms 102:12, and Psalms 135:13**).
- In remembrance of the Lord, they needed to turn back to Him (**Zechariah 1:3**).
- This is language of repentance (**Ezekiel 14:6, Ezekiel 18:30, and Acts 26:18-20**).
- They needed to, in their repentance, be merciful and judge properly (**Proverbs 21:3, Micah 6:8, and Zechariah 8:16**) of which they had been refusing to do (**Zechariah 7:8-14**).

5. Was Ephraim interested in their spiritual or carnal well-being?

They were deceptively interested in their carnal wealth: *“(7) He is a merchant, the balances of deceit are in his hand: he loveth to oppress. (8) And 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”* (**Hosea 12:7-8**).

- “He” does not refer to God for God is not deceptive (**Deuteronomy 32:4, Proverbs 16:11, and Titus 1:2**).
- God’s people had become deceptive and such even as merchants (**Amos 8:1-6**).
- False balances were wrong (**Leviticus 19:35-36 and Proverbs 11:1**).
- People can falsely convince themselves that they are okay because they are prospering financially (**Psalms 49:6-20, Psalms 52:1-7, Luke 12:13-21, and Revelation 3:14-22**).
- People find ways to justify their transgressions and pretend they have done nothing wrong (**Proverbs 16:2, Proverbs 30:12, and Proverbs 30:20**).

6. What works did the Lord remind them that He had done in their past?

That he spoke to them through the prophets and delivered them in the past from Egypt: *“(9) And 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. (10) I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets”* (**Hosea 12:9-10**).

- God reminded them of their past escape from Egypt being by Him (**Exodus 20:2**).

- Then He tells them they're going back to tents signifying that they won't be in their homes for long (**Isaiah 6:8-12** and **Isaiah 24:10**).
- God, to now avail, warned them through the prophets (**II Kings 17:13**, **II Chronicles 24:18-21**, **II Chronicles 36:14-16**, **Nehemiah 9:30**, and **Jeremiah 25:1-4**).

7. What question did the Lord ask and answer concerning Gilead?

"Is 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" (**Hosea 12:11**).

- Gilead was sinful (**Hosea 6:8**).
- They had piled up their idolatrous practices (**II Kings 17:9-12**).
- Even Judah, in the future from this time, will multiply their idols (**Jeremiah 11:13**).
- Idolatry is clearly sinful (**Deuteronomy 5:7-9**, **Deuteronomy 11:16-17**, **Acts 15:20**, **I Corinthians 6:9-10**, **I Corinthians 10:14**, **Ephesians 5:5**, and **I John 5:21**).

8. What is the Lord referring to when He spoke of Jacob serving for a wife?

God said this: *"And Jacob fled into the country of Syria, and Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he kept sheep"* (**Hosea 12:12**).

- He is speaking of **Genesis 27:41-29:30** wherein Jacob served Laban for Leah and Rachel to be his wives.

9. How had the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt?

By a prophet: *"And by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved"* (**Hosea 12:13**).

- Moses and Aaron fit the terminology of prophets (**Exodus 7:1**, **Deuteronomy 34:10**, and **Acts 7:37**).
- They were used to bring up Egypt out of Israel (**Exodus 6:13**, **Exodus 6:26-27**, **Numbers 33:1**, and **I Samuel 12:8**).

10. What did Ephraim provoke the Lord to?

Anger most bitterly: *"Ephraim provoked him to anger most bitterly: therefore shall he leave his blood upon him, and his reproach shall his Lord return unto him"* (**Hosea 12:14**).

- **Deuteronomy 4:25**, **Deuteronomy 9:18**, **Judges 2:10-12**, **I Kings 14:7-9**, **II Kings 17:9-12**, **II Chronicles 28:25**, **Psalms 78:58**, **Isaiah 1:1-4**, and **Jeremiah 25:7**