

# **Hosea 12**

## **Hosea 12.1-11**

**V1** – **The charges against Ephraim?** Chasing after the dry, parching east wind (off the desert)

-**Meaning?** Ephraim (the Northern Kingdom) had made covenants with Assyria and Egypt

**V2** – **Who else was guilty?** The Southern Kingdom (Judah)

-Judah would be punished in time

**V3** – **What is this a reference to?** Jacob holding onto the heel of Esau at birth

**V4** – **What else did Jacob do?** Wrestled with God (*Gen. 32.24-32*)

-Jacob received the promise of a great nation at Bethel

**V5** – It was the Lord God

**V6** – **What did God really want from his people?** Kindness and justice

-in other words, "Come back to me now; it is almost too late"

**V7** – Ephraim was like a merchant with false balances (weights)

**V8** – But the Northern Kingdom didn't see anything wrong with cheating people – they had gotten rich that way, and that made it right (sounds modern)

**V9** – Back to the tents for Israel – maybe there was a glimmer of hope if they repented

**V10** – **How had God warned the people?** With visions (in other words, through the prophets and their parables)

**V11** – Two famous centers for calf worship: Gilgal and Gilead

**Hosea 12.12-14** – The punishment was well-deserved

**V12** – Jacob had to work 14 years for Rachel (Aram = Syria)

**V13** – **But what was much more amazing than that?** That God used a prophet (Moses) and brought the Israelites out of Egypt

-In other words, it is good to be a descendant of Jacob, but it is better to listen to one of God's prophets

**V14** – But God was given only sin in return