

# The Book of Hosea

## Chapter Twelve

### I. Review

- A. Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel who prophesied of its fall to Assyria.
- B. Chapters 4-14 contain messages of the coming judgment upon Israel
- C. God's indictment against Israel is across three groups: Israel, the nation and people; Ephraim, the ruling class or princes; and the priests. All these have failed in their duties to serve God.
- D. Chapter 12 jumps in almost mid-thought from chapter 11.
- E. In Chapter 12, God rebukes Israel's pride and rebellion by pointing to the humble beginnings and His role in the making of their nation.

### II. Chapter Twelve

- vs. 1 - lots of stuff here. Ephraim is very unstable, carried away by every breeze. They are also playing a dangerous political game trying to build alliances with Assyria and Egypt.
- vs. 2 - After quickly bringing in the Southern Kingdom into the scene, the attention focuses on the all of Jacob's descendants (all of Israel), regardless of the Kingdom they claim.
- vs. 3 - HISTORY LESSON TIME! Genesis 25:26. Jacob holding Esau's heel at birth gave him the name "Jacob" ("supplanter"). This is a picture of tripping someone by deceit.
- vs. 4 - HISTORY LESSON TIME! Genesis 32:22-32 - Jacob wrestling with the "angel". I believe this was a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ.
- vs. 5 - This brief history lesson is used to remind Israel of who they are and who they serve.
- vs. 6 - another call to repentance. In spite of the rebellion of Israel God's promises are still true for them.
- vs. 7 - Back to Ephraim here (note the "thou" to "he" subject change), comparing him to a crooked businessman
- vs. 8 - Ephraim credits any success they've had to themselves and not to God.
- vs. 9 - God's promise to humble them back into living in tents.
- vs. 10 - Israel turned to evil in spite of God's continued warnings
- vs. 11 - Gilgal and Gilead are on opposite side of Jordan, showing the pervasiveness of the idolatry.
- vs. 11 - heaps in the furrows of the field - like rocks piled out of a plowed field
- vs. 12 - HISTORY LESSON TIME! Genesis 29. God is showing that their origin was from a man who worked for years to marry his wives. Humble beginnings.
- vs. 13 - HISTORY LESSON TIME! God used Moses and Joshua to bring Israel from being slaves in Egypt to settlers in Canaan. Humble beginnings again.
- vs. 14 - "leave his blood upon him" - not remove the guilt (John 9:41)
- What caused this final reaction from God? The pride of Ephraim and Israel. They forgot their humble past and their mighty God. They now were proud and turned to idols.