

“So you, by the help of your God, return, hold fast to love and justice, and wait continually for your God.”

Ephraim (vv. 7-9)

“A merchant (or Canaan)...false balances...loves to oppress...”

“Ephraim has said...found (*matsa*) wealth...cannot find in me iniquity...”

“I am the LORD your God from the land of Egypt; I will...”

-- They deserve to be repaid for their deeds, but should remember how Jacob illustrated the work of the LORD in caring for them (vv. 10-14)

^{ESV} **Hosea 12:10** I spoke to the prophets; it was I who multiplied visions, and through the prophets gave parables. ¹¹ If there is iniquity in Gilead, they shall surely come to nothing; in Gilgal they sacrifice bulls; their altars also are like stone heaps on the furrows of the field. ¹² Jacob fled to the land of Aram; there Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he guarded sheep. ¹³ By a prophet the LORD brought Israel up from Egypt, and by a prophet he was guarded. ¹⁴ Ephraim has given bitter provocation; so his Lord will leave his bloodguilt on him and will repay him for his disgraceful deeds.

“I spoke to the prophets...I multiplied visions...and gave parables...”

How did they respond? What was the result?

Gilead (See Hosea 6:8)

Gilgal (See Hosea 4:15; 9:15)

Who are we talking about? What time are we talking about?

Jacob (v. 12)

“Jacob fled to the land of Aram...”

“...there Israel served for a wife...”

“...and for a wife he guarded (*shamar*) sheep.”

“By a prophet the LORD brought Israel up from Egypt...”

“...and by a prophet he was guarded (*shamar*).”

Ephraim (v. 14)

“Ephraim has given bitter provocation...”

“...so his Lord will...”

- Our character and action, and historical similarities...
- Our character and action, and (God's) gracious intervention...
- Our character and action, and intentional (effective) remembrance...

Sunday, April 12, 2026
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

Hosea—Faithless People Faithful God
No. 17 | God's Contention with Israel—
Emotion and Relationship, pt. 10
Hosea 11:12-12:14

Review

The Book of Hosea: (1) It is the first book of the minor prophets in the Old Testament (starting on page 751 in the ESV Pew Bible); (2) It recounts the “word of the LORD” to Hosea, a man who served as a prophet in deed and in word; (3) His prophetic ministry was most immediately to the northern kingdom of Israel (Samaria), then to the southern kingdom of Judah (Jerusalem); (4) He began his prophetic ministry likely shortly before Jeroboam II died (753 BC) and concluded shortly after Hezekiah began to reign (729 BC).



The Book of Hosea is about the *faithlessness* of God's people and his *faithfulness* to them, illustrated most poignantly through marital (in)fidelity.

God's Contention with Israel—Emotion and Relationship, pt. 10 11:12-12:14

^{ESV} **Hosea 4:1** Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a **controversy** with the inhabitants of the land.

What is the “**controversy**” (contention) God has with Israel?

^{ESV} **Hosea 1:2** “...the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD.”

^{ESV} **Hosea 3:1** “...the children of Israel...turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.”

^{ESV} **Hosea 4:** ¹ There **is no** faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; ² there **is** swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.

How does God's contention with Israel (4:1-3) relate to 8:1-10:15?

This section, while continuing to make use of several themes, especially emphasizes the **relationship** God has with Israel, and the **emotion** related to it.

God's contention with Israel (4:1-3)

Against the priests and people—the religious life of Israel (4:4-5:7)

Against the princes and people—the political life of Israel (5:8-7:16)

Reveals cause and effect—the *present* economy of Israel (8:1-9:9)

Reveals cause and effect—the *historical* economy of Israel (9:10-10:15)

Reveals emotion and relationship—the Lord's *historical* affection for Israel (11:1-11)

Reveals emotion and relationship—Jacob's (Israel's) *historical* relationship with the Lord (11:12-12:14)

God tells Israel to listen up because he has a contention against them, which also reveals the reality of emotion and relationship.

Historically...

- **Israel has repeatedly demonstrated that they aren't much different than their namesake in some ways, while at the same time they need to be more like him in other ways.** (11:12-12:14)

Overview

How does 11:12 follow after 11:10-11?

ESV **Hosea 11:10** They (Ephraim, Israel, cf. vv. 8-9) shall go after the LORD; he will roar like a lion; when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west; ¹¹ they shall come trembling like birds from Egypt, and like doves from the land of Assyria, and I will return them to their homes, declares the LORD.

¹² Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit, but Judah still walks with God and is faithful to the Holy One. ^{12:1} Ephraim feeds on the wind and pursues the east wind all day long; they multiply falsehood and violence; they make a covenant with Assyria, and oil is carried to Egypt.

Why does 11:12-12:14 refer to Jacob twice?

ESV **Hosea 12:3** In the womb **he (Jacob)**, cf. v. 2) took his brother by the heel, and in his manhood he strove with God. ⁴ He strove with the angel and prevailed; he wept and sought his favor. He met God¹ at Bethel...

ESV **Hosea 12:12** **Jacob** fled to the land of Aram; there Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he guarded sheep.

What seems to hold 11:12-12:14 together?

ESV **Hosea 12:2** The LORD has an indictment against Judah and will punish Jacob according to his ways; he will repay him according to his deeds.

^{12:14} Ephraim has given bitter provocation; so his Lord will leave his bloodguilt on him and will repay him for his disgraceful deeds.

- (vv. 2-9) repay...Jacob...God spoke...Ephraim...Egypt...I will...
- (vv. 10-14) I spoke...Jacob...Egypt...Ephraim...Lord will...repay...

ESV **Hosea 11:12** ¹ Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit, but Judah still walks with God and is faithful to the Holy One. ^{12:1} Ephraim feeds on the wind and pursues the east wind all day long; they multiply falsehood and violence; they make a covenant with Assyria, and oil is carried to Egypt.

What is the present condition of Israel? (11:12-12:1)

"Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit..."

"...but Judah still walks with God and is faithful to the Holy One." Or

NAU **Hosea 11:12** ...Judah is also unruly against God, even against the Holy One who is faithful.

"...And Judah still wanders in his relationship with *el*, 'deity,' and is faithful with 'holy beings.'" (Duane A. Garrett, p. 232)

See also, Hosea 11:9 (e.g. singular vs plural) and Hosea 12:2 (e.g. an indictment against Judah)

"Ephraim feeds on the wind and pursues the east wind all day long..."

"...they multiply falsehood and violence..."

"...they make a covenant with Assyria, and oil is carried to Egypt."

How does the historical condition of their namesake relate to them in the present?

-- They deserve to be repaid for their deeds, but should remember how Jacob was changed when the LORD became his God (vv. 2-9)

ESV **Hosea 12:2** The LORD has an indictment against Judah and will punish Jacob according to his ways; he will repay him according to his deeds. ³ In the womb he took his brother by the heel, and in his manhood he strove with God. ⁴ He strove with the angel and prevailed; he wept and sought his favor. He met God¹ at Bethel, and there God spoke with us - ⁵ the LORD, the God of hosts, the LORD is his memorial name: ⁶ "So you, by the help of your God, return, hold fast to love and justice, and wait continually for your God." ⁷ A merchant, in whose hands are false balances, he loves to oppress. ⁸ Ephraim has said, "Ah, but I am rich; I have found wealth for myself; in all my labors they cannot find in me iniquity or sin." ⁹ I am the LORD your God from the land of Egypt; I will again make you dwell in tents, as in the days of the appointed feast.

"The LORD...will punish Jacob according to his ways; he will repay him according to his deeds." (For indictment, see Hosea 4:1-3)

What are his ways? What are his deeds?

Who are we talking about? What time are we talking about?

Jacob (vv. 3-6)

"In the womb he took his brother by the heel..."

"...and in his manhood he strove with God."

"He strove with the angel and prevailed..."

"...he wept and sought his favor."

"He met (or found, *matsa*) God at Bethel..."

"...and there God spoke with us."

"...the LORD, the God of hosts, the LORD (of *zeker*)..."