

# Hosea 12

Chapter 12 of 14 · 14 Verses · Authorized King James Version

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## **The Lord's Charge Against Judah**

- 1** 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.
  - 2** The LORD hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him.
  - 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 Beth-el, and there he spake with us;
  - 5** Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD is his memorial.
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- 6** Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.
  - 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.
  - 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.

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- 10** I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.
- 11** 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.
- 12** And Jacob fled into the country of Syria, and Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he kept sheep.
- 13** And by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved.
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- 14** Ephraim provoked him to anger most bitterly: therefore shall he leave his blood upon him, and his reproach shall his Lord return unto him.
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## HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

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### **Altar** — מִזְבֵּחַ (Mizbeach)

Altar, place of sacrifice

The Hebrew **mizbeach** (מִזְבֵּחַ) means altar—from the root 'to slaughter.' Altars were places where sacrifices were offered to God, pointing forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

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### **Angel** — מַלְאָךְ (Mal'akh)

Angel, messenger

The Hebrew **mal'akh** (מַלְאָךְ) means angel or messenger—a heavenly being sent by God. Angels serve as God's messengers, worship Him, and minister to believers (Hebrews 1:14).

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### **Blood** — דָּם (Dam)

Blood

The Hebrew **dam** (דָּם) means blood—representing life itself. 'The life of the flesh is in the blood' (Leviticus 17:11), and blood was required for atonement, foreshadowing Christ's sacrifice.

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### **Covenant** — בְּרִית (Berit)

Covenant, treaty

The Hebrew **berit** (בְּרִית) denotes a covenant—a binding agreement, often ratified by blood sacrifice. God's covenants (Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic) structure redemptive history, culminating in the New Covenant.

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**God** — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

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**Iniquity** — עָוֹן (Avon)

Iniquity, guilt, punishment

The Hebrew **avon** (עָוֹן) encompasses iniquity, guilt, and its punishment—the twisted nature of sin. 'The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all' (Isaiah 53:6), Christ bearing our guilt and penalty.

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**Judgment** — מִשְׁפָּט (Mishpat)

Judgment, justice

The Hebrew **mishpat** (מִשְׁפָּט) means judgment or justice—God's righteous decisions and ordinances. God is the Judge of all the earth who 'shall do right' (Genesis 18:25), executing perfect justice.

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**Lord** — אֲדֹנָי / יְהוָה (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

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**Love** — אַהֲבָה / חֶסֶד (Ahavah / Chesed)

Love / Loyal-love

Hebrew uses **ahavah** (אַהֲבָה) for love generally, but the covenant term **chesed** (חֶסֶד) describes God's steadfast, loyal love—faithful covenant commitment beyond mere emotion.

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**Prophet** — נָבִיא (Navi)

Prophet, spokesman

The Hebrew **navi** (נָבִיא) means prophet—one who speaks God's word to the people. Prophets received divine revelation and declared God's message, often calling Israel to repentance and foretelling future events.

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**Sacrifice** — זֶבַח (Zevach)

Sacrifice, offering

The Hebrew **zevach** (זֶבַח) denotes a sacrifice or offering—an animal slaughtered for worship. Old Testament sacrifices foreshadowed Christ, 'the Lamb of God' (John 1:29).

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**Sin** — חַטָּאת (Chatta'ah)

Sin, missing the mark

The Hebrew **chatta'ah** (חַטָּאת) means sin—missing the mark of God's standard. It encompasses rebellion, transgression, and falling short of divine holiness.

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**CROSS REFERENCES**

**Hosea 12:1**    **Parallel theme:** Hosea 5:13; 8:7; 11:12; Jeremiah 22:22; Ezekiel 17:10

**Hosea 12:2**    **References Lord:** Hosea 4:1; Micah 6:2. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 10:6

**Hosea 12:3**    **Parallel theme:** Genesis 25:26

**Hosea 12:4** **Parallel theme:** Genesis 35:15

**Hosea 12:5** **References God:** Exodus 3:15. **References Lord:** Psalms 135:13; Isaiah 42:8

**Hosea 12:6** **Grace:** Isaiah 30:18; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 7:9. **References God:** Hosea 14:1; Micah 7:7. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 1:16; 8:17; 31:6; 40:31; 58:6

**Hosea 12:7** **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 11:1; 16:11; Isaiah 3:5; Amos 2:7; 3:9; 4:1; 5:11; Zechariah 14:21; John 2:16; James 5:4

**Hosea 12:8** **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 8:17; Psalms 49:6; 52:7; 62:10; Proverbs 30:12; 30:20; Zechariah 11:5; Revelation 3:17. **Sin:** Jeremiah 2:23; 1 Timothy 6:5

**Hosea 12:9** **References God:** Hosea 13:4; 2 Samuel 7:2

**Hosea 12:10** **Prophecy:** 2 Kings 17:13; Jeremiah 7:25; Joel 2:28. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 19:1; Ezekiel 20:49

**Hosea 12:11** **Sin:** Hosea 6:8; 8:11. **Parallel theme:** Hosea 4:15; 9:15. **Sacrifice:** Hosea 10:1

**Hosea 12:12** **Parallel theme:** Genesis 31:41

**Hosea 12:13** **Parallel theme:** Psalms 77:20. **References Lord:** Exodus 13:3. **References Egypt:** Micah 6:4

**Hosea 12:14** **Blood:** Ezekiel 18:13. **Parallel theme:** Daniel 11:18

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