

# Hosea 12:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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;

## Analysis

Weeping and supplication: '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.' Jacob had power over מלאך (malakh, angel/messenger), prevailed through weeping (בָּكָה, bakhah) and supplication (הַתְּחִנֵּן, hitchannen). Found him at Bethel, where He spoke with 'us' (collective identity). This demonstrates that spiritual power comes through humble pleading, not strong striving. The 'us' includes all Jacob's descendants—God's word to Jacob speaks to all Israel. Christ intercedes with weeping for us (Hebrews 5:7).

## Historical Context

References Genesis 28:10-22 (Jacob's ladder vision at Bethel) and Genesis 32:24-30 (wrestling at Peniel). The combination suggests both encounters shape identity. Bethel ('house of God'), where Jacob received covenant promises, became significant site in Israel's history—later corrupted (Hosea calls it Beth-aven, 4:15). The phrase 'there He spoke with us' emphasizes corporate identity: Jacob's encounter becomes defining for all descendants. Archaeological evidence shows Bethel's significance as worship site throughout Israelite history. Church fathers saw Jacob's wrestling as typology: struggling with God in prayer until blessing received.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jacob's weeping and supplication demonstrate that spiritual victory comes through humble dependence rather than strength?
2. What does 'there he spake with us' teach about patriarchal encounters with God shaping corporate identity?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיָשַׁר	אֶל	מֶלֶךְ	לִפְנֵי	בְּכָה
<b>Yea he had power</b>	H413	<b>over the angel</b>	<b>and prevailed</b>	<b>he wept</b>
H7786		H4397	H3201	H1058
וְיָתַפֵּךְ	לְבִתְהֵל	אֶל	מִצְאָה	וְיָשַׁבְתָּ
<b>and made supplication</b>	H0	H0	<b>him in Bethel</b>	<b>unto him he found</b>
H2603			H1008	H4672
וְיָדַבְתָּ	בְּעָמָנוּ			
<b>and there he spake</b>	H5973			
H1696				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 35:15** (Parallel theme): And Jacob called the name of the place where God spake with him, Beth-el.

