

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 מַלְאָךְ (malakh, angel/messenger), prevailed through weeping (בָּכָה, bakhah) and supplication (הִתְחַנֵּן, 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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

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

וַיִּשָׁר Yea he had power H7786	אֶל H413	מַלְאָךְ over the angel H4397	וַיִּכַּחַד and prevailed H3201	בָּכָה he wept H1058	
וַיַּתְחִינֵן and made supplication H2603	לֹא H0	בֵּית H0	אֵל him in Bethel H1008	וַיִּמְצָא unto him he found H4672	אֵל H8033
וַיִּדְבֹּר and there he spake H1696	עִמּוֹ H5973				

Additional Cross-References

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

