

“Return” Hosea 12:1-14 12/17/17

Today, we'd like to see the title of "Return" in the book of Hosea 12:1-14.

To Online Word's people on the earth, we'd like to suggest 3 Questions.

Q1. In verse 1, "Ephraim feeds on the wind, And pursues the east wind; He daily increases lies and desolation. Also they make a covenant with the Assyrians, And oil is carried to Egypt," what does it mean? How should we do in such difficult situations?

Q2. In verse 4, "Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed; He wept, and sought favor from Him. He found Him *in* Bethel, And there He spoke to us—," what does it mean? What could we learn from here?

Q3. In verse 6, "So you, by *the help of your God*, return; Observe mercy and justice, And wait on your God continually," what points does Hosea say to Israel?

(Background)

After the death of Solomon in 931 BC, Israel was divided with Israel ruled by Jeroboam in North and Judah ruled by Rehoboam, Solomon's son, in south. Before Israel was carried captivity by Assyria in 722BC, Hosea prophesied to Israel during 760-720 BC (Jeroboam II the 13th king to Hoshea the last 19th), while Isaiah prophesied to Judah during 745-695 BC.

The Prophets in OT time in general asked double "R"s – (1) Repent or confess sins, and (2) Return to God, as Hosea the prophet does so.

People (Genesis) – Abraham/Sarah; Isaac/Rebekah; Jacob/Leah+ Rachel + Zilpah + Bilhah

Text

¹Ephraim feeds on the wind,
And pursues the east wind;
He daily increases lies and desolation.
Also they make a covenant with the Assyrians,
And oil is carried to Egypt.

1=Q1 wind (emptiness; it couldn't nourish:: the east wind (dry & desert wind of Israel unlike west wind from Mediterranean sea. e.g. Ventura fire caused by Santa Ana's wind: not Rock ¹ Sam 2:1-2¹); He (Ephraim, the representative of Israel) daily increase lies and desolation (cheats & destruction); a covenant with the Assyrians (in a difficult situation between Assyria and Egypt the two strong countries: not to invade upon "their own counsel." not God's counsel *Hosea 11:6; Proverb 19:21*²); oil is carried to Egypt (olive oil as a bribery or gift given to Egypt not to

¹ 1 Sam 2:1-2 And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation. ²"No one is holy like the LORD, For *there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God*.

² *Hosea 11:6* And the sword shall slash in his cities, Devour his districts, And consume *them*. Because of their own counsels; *Proverbs 19:21* There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD's counsel—that will stand.

<p>²“The LORD also <u>brings a charge against Judah,</u> And will <u>punish Jacob according to his ways;</u> <u>According to his deeds He will recompense him.</u></p> <p>³ He took <u>his brother by the heel in the womb,</u> And <u>in his strength he struggled with God.</u></p> <p>⁴ Yes, <u>he struggled with the Angel and prevailed;</u> <u>He wept, and sought favor from Him.</u> <u>He found Him in Bethel,</u> And <u>there He spoke to us—</u></p>	<p>invade --- in a difficult situation, instantly ask God by prayer)</p> <p>2= a charge against Judah (Southern nation after Hezekiah king's death – Manasseh the new king led Judah to worship idols as Israel); punish Jacob (Israel) according to his ways; according to his deeds. He will recompense him (he will pay back to him because our God is fair and righteous. i.e., iust: more knowledge given, more asked by God <i>Luke 12:48</i>³)</p> <p>3= He (Jacob: heal holder or heal catcher) took his brother (Esau) by the heel in the womb <i>Gen 25:26</i>⁴.... In his strength... struggled with God (but he was defeated by the socket of his hip, which is out of joint at Peniel <i>Gen 32:24-25</i>⁵; he was permanently crippled and impossible to run away from angry Esau meeting upon his own/manipulative/ connive plan to set his family and sheep on one side of the river Jabbok. So, he wept and asked blessing to Him including the peaceful meeting with Esau.)</p> <p>4=Q2 he struggled with the Angel and prevailed (he struggled with the Angel but prevailed by His permitting his requested blessings); He wept, and sought favor from Him (how he got the blessings including the peaceful meeting with Esau <i>Gen 32:26-28</i>⁶; His name Jacob the heal holder by self was changed to Israel ruled by God. NOTE at the time when Jacob's self was defeated, God's blessing began: When you deny yourself, God's works or blessings begin!); He found Him in Bethel (Bethel was the sleeping place where he ran away from angry Esau to Laban his uncle—there was the place to be conscious of God's presence <i>Gen 28:12, 15</i>⁷; after the peaceful meeting with Esau, God asked him to go there again <i>Gen 35:1-2</i>⁸; return to the place where we are conscious of God's presence 1st time, and throw away idols); And there He spoke to us (At the 1st place to be conscious of God's presence, God spoke to</p>
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³ *Luke 12:48* But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

⁴ *Gen 25:26* Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

⁵ *Gen 32:24-25* Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. ²⁵ Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.

⁶ *Gen 32:26-28*²⁶ And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"²⁷ So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob."²⁸ And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

⁷ *Gen 28:12, 15*¹² Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

⁸ *Gen 35:1-2* Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother."² And Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments. (how to change his characteristic from what Jacob was to what Israel is now is manifested.)

<p>⁵ That is, the LORD God of hosts. <u>The LORD is His memorable name.</u></p> <p>⁶ So you, by <i>the help</i> of your God, <u>return</u>; <u>Observe mercy and justice,</u> And <u>wait on your God continually.</u></p> <p>⁷ “A cunning Canaanite! [He is a merchant] <u>Deceitful scales are</u> in his hand; He loves to <u>oppress.</u></p> <p>⁸ And Ephraim said, ‘Surely I have <u>become rich,</u> I have found <u>wealth</u> for myself; <i>In</i> all my labors <u>They shall find in me no iniquity that is sin.’</u></p> <p>⁹ “But <u>I am</u> the LORD your God, <u>Ever since the land of Egypt;</u> I will again <u>make you dwell in tents,</u> <u>As in the days of the appointed feast.</u></p> <p>¹⁰ I have also <u>spoken by the prophets,</u> And have multiplied <u>visions;</u> I have given <u>symbols</u> through the witness of the prophets.”</p>	<p>Israelites , e.g. the Church of Ephesus <i>Rev 2:4-5</i>⁹)</p> <p>5= The Lord is His memorable name (The Lord is His name)</p> <p>6=Q3 return (to God); Observe mercy and justice (keep mercy – seek God to forgive your sins – and justice – His righteousness and fairness); wait on your God continually (this is a hard part for us who want to get a quick answer – wait on the Lord to do in His way and time.)</p> <p>7= Deceitful scales (deceivers, Ephraim); oppress (force others; violence)</p> <p>8= become rich (Ephraim or Israel boasts of his prosperity even by deceits, crookedness, or perversity); They..find in me no iniquity that is sin (no body find my iniquity in my wealth)</p> <p>9= (But God said) I am the Lord your God, ever since the land of Egypt (since the exodus from Egypt, I am the Lord your God); make you dwell in tents (because of Assvrians’ captivity in 722 BC); As in the day of the appointed feast (the feast of the tabernacles for one week stay to memorize God’s protection from 40 years wilderness life after the exodus <i>Lev 23:34</i>¹⁰)</p> <p>10= spoken by the prophets... visions... symbols (God’s faithful teaching through His servants is shown <i>Mat 28:18-20</i>¹¹; visions, symbols, similitudes, or parables to those who do not listen or are hard to understand, e.g. Jeremiah’s linen sash rotten in water, or Jesus’ parables <i>Mark 4:33</i>¹²)</p>
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⁹ *Rev 2:4-5* Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

¹⁰ *Lev 23:34* Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.

¹¹ *Mat 28:18-20* And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen

¹² *Mark 4:33* And with many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear *it*.

<p>¹¹ Though <u>Gilead has idols</u>— Surely they are <u>vanity</u>— Though they <u>sacrifice bulls in Gilgal</u>, Indeed <u>their altars shall be heaps in the furrows of the field</u>.</p> <p>¹² <u>Jacob fled to the country of Syria</u>; <u>Israel served for a spouse</u>, <u>And for a wife he tended sheep</u>.</p> <p>¹³ <u>By a prophet</u> the LORD brought <u>Israel out of Egypt</u>, And <u>by a prophet</u> he was preserved.</p> <p>¹⁴ <u>Ephraim provoked Him to anger most bitterly</u>; Therefore his Lord will leave <u>the guilt of his bloodshed upon him</u>, And return <u>his reproach upon him</u>.</p>	<p>11= Gilead (an idol city); sacrifice bulls in Gilgal (to other gods); their altars ... heaps in the furrows of the field (there are their altars of other gods just all over the field).</p> <p>12= Jacob fled to the country of Syria (to Laban his uncle to escape from angry Esau); Israel served for a spouse (for Rachel for 7 years then received Leah in the crooked deal of Laban; for Rachel for 7 years); And for a wife he tended sheep (he kept sheep – Israel was blessed through humbling/mortifying/molding process for 20 years <i>Gen 31:41</i>¹³ NOTE whatever you have is not a result of your efforts but it is entrusted for a while not beyond your life because God has been gracious to you. You are just a steward but God owns all things of the earth. <i>James 4:6</i>¹⁴)</p> <p>13= Bav a prophet... Israel out of Egypt.. by a prophet (Moses the prophet known deeply by God <i>Deut 34:10</i>¹⁵)</p> <p>14= Ephraim provoked Him to anger most bitterly (because Israel did not repent their sins nor returned to God)... the guilt of his bloodshed upon him (Israelites will be killed with bloodshed by cruel Assyrians in 722BC); his reproach upon him (he will be blamed in this way of Assyrians' captivity)</p>
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¹³ *Gen 31:41* Thus I have been in your house twenty years: I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times.

¹⁴ *James 4:6* But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

¹⁵ *Deut 34:10* But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, (NOTE: not saw face to face but knew face to face)