

Hosea 12

New King James Version (NKJV)

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- 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.
- 2 “ The LORD also brings a charge against Judah,
And will punish Jacob according to his ways;
According to his deeds He will recompense him.
- 3 He took his brother by the heel in the womb,
And in his strength he struggled with God.[a]
- 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—
- 5 That is, the LORD God of hosts.
The LORD is His memorable name.
- 6 So you, by the help of your God, return;
Observe mercy and justice,
And wait on your God continually.
- 7 “ A cunning Canaanite!
Deceitful scales are in his hand;
He loves to oppress.
- 8 And Ephraim said,
‘ Surely I have become rich,

I have found wealth for myself;
In all my labors
They shall find in me no iniquity that is sin.’

9 “ But I am the LORD your God,
Ever since the land of Egypt;
I will again make you dwell in tents,
As in the days of the appointed feast.

10 I have also spoken by the prophets,
And have multiplied visions;
I have given symbols through the witness of the
prophets.”

11 Though Gilead has idols—
Surely they are vanity—
Though they sacrifice bulls in Gilgal,
Indeed their altars shall be heaps in the furrows of the
field.

12 Jacob fled to the country of Syria;
Israel served for a spouse,
And for a wife he tended sheep.

13 By a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt,
And by a prophet he was preserved.

14 Ephraim provoked Him to anger most bitterly;
Therefore his Lord will leave the guilt of his bloodshed
upon him,
And return his reproach upon him.