



*\*The heart is deceitful above all things. Jeremiah 17:9*

*\*Ephesians 4:18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.*

*\*2 Thessalonians 2:10 and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.*

*\*Hosea 12:1 Ephraim feeds on the wind; he pursues the east wind all day and multiplies lies and violence. He makes a treaty with Assyria and sends olive oil to Egypt.*

*2 The LORD has a charge to bring against Judah; he will punish Jacob according to his ways and repay him according to his deeds.*

*3 In the womb he grasped his brother's heel; as a man he struggled with God.*

*4 He struggled with the angel and overcame him; he wept and begged for his favor. He found him at Bethel and talked with him there—*

*5 the LORD God Almighty, the LORD is his name!*

*6 But you must return to your God; maintain love and justice, and wait for your God always.*

### *\*Trusting in the Wind.*

1. **V:1 The House of Israel (Ephraim).** Relies on its treaties made with people who don't honor God. (Assyria & Egypt) **Ephraim (His name means "Fruitful")** How fruitful can you be chasing after the wind?
  - A. **Chasing** the east wind is living carelessly. Making a treaty with Assyria while trading with their enemy Egypt means their foreign policy was in big trouble.
  - B. **Daily lying** and allowing violence reign produces what kind of life? **Destructive!**
  
2. **V:2-4 The entire nation of Israel** is in trouble. Judah symbolizes the southern kingdom and Jacob's name signifies the whole nation.
  - A. **God would address the nation** as Israel when they were obedient and Jacob when they were disobedient.
  - B. **Israel's deception** has been there from the beginning. **Jacob (Deceiver) the person and the nation must repent and let God start talking and directing them.**
  
3. **V:5-6 We must return to God and the House of God.** Always wait for God don't go before His movement or His will is revealed in time. Don't lag behind it.

*\*Hosea 12:7 The merchant uses dishonest scales and loves to defraud.*

*8 Ephraim boasts, "I am very rich; I have become wealthy. With all my wealth they will not find in me any iniquity or sin."*

*9 "I have been the LORD your God ever since you came out of Egypt; I will make you live in tents again, as in the days of your appointed festivals.*

## \*Defrauding and deceit are paths to iniquity leading to slavery.

1. **V:7 Nations that become prosperous** through dishonest gain will not be blessed by God.
2. **V:8 A nation that boasts of its wealth** and lies about its dealings will answer to God. *If a nation also claims uniqueness because of its God then beware. The house of Israel was a nation for a little over 2 centuries when God dealt with them over their compromises.*
3. **V:9 They need to return** or revisit the times that God took care of them in their wilderness.

*\*Hosea 12:10 I spoke to the prophets, gave them many visions and told parables through them."*

*11 Is Gilead wicked? Its people are worthless! Do they sacrifice bulls in Gilgal? Their altars will be like piles of stones on a plowed field.*

*12 Jacob fled to the country of Aram; Israel served to get a wife, and to pay for her he tended sheep.*

*13 The LORD used a prophet to bring Israel up from Egypt, by a prophet he cared for him.*

*14 But Ephraim has aroused his bitter anger; his Lord will leave on him the guilt of his bloodshed and will repay him for his contempt.*

## \*Trusting the spoken Word of God means we are more than literalists.

1. **V:10 The Word of God is truth.** Yet, God uses allegories, figurative speech, and parables. God even uses humor, satire, puns, metonymies, and much more to teach through His Word.
2. **V:11 The Balm of Gilead.** A spiritual metaphor for the healing power of Jesus Christ over sin and even the sins of a nation. Yet, the place Gilead that should be a symbol of God's power became a place of wickedness.
3. **V:12 Jacob worked twice as hard to receive the wife he loved.** He was known as a deceiver and it came back to him twice. *Once when he worked 14 years for his wife. Then when his sons deceived him over the death of Joseph.*
4. **V:13 The Lord uses Prophets** to bring his people out of captivity and to care for His people. *Prophets are more than proclaimers o*
5. **V:14 It is a terrible thing to provoke God.** After two centuries of disobedience, God's righteous wrath came upon the house of Israel. How long can the house of God have contempt of Him and not receive judgment? *The house of Israel's guilt remained on them when their God is one of grace and mercy.*