

Remembering Jacob & Egypt (Hosea 11:12-12:11)

1. What sin is mentioned at least three times in 11:12-12:2? Consider the role of that sin in the life of Jacob the patriarch.
2. What is Ephraim attempting (in vain) to accomplish in 12:2?
3. Hosea 12:3a refers to the birth of Jacob in Genesis 25:22-26, where even in the womb, Jacob struggled to supplant his brother Esau. What one thing did Jacob want from his brother? (Genesis 25:27-34; see also Genesis 27:34-36)
4. Hosea 12:3b-4a refers to Jacob's overnight wrestling match with God In Genesis 32:24-32. What one thing did Jacob want from that struggle? (32:26)
5. Hosea 12:4b refers to Jacob's *return* to Bethel (the spot where he had his dream of the ladder to heaven), where he "found" the Lord and the Lord spoke to him. What preparations did Jacob make among his household before returning to Bethel? (Genesis 35:1-4.) Contrast that attitude to what Bethel had become in Hosea's day.
6. Based on this history of Jacob, what does Hosea urge the people to do? (12:6)
7. Instead, what has Ephraim become? (12:7) What sinful attitude does he express? (12:8)
8. How had living "in tents" been a blessing to Israel in the days of Egypt What does the Lord promise in verse 9, and is this a blessing or not?
9. What other blessing had God provided? (10; see also 13) Did it have its desired effect? (11)
10. Why was Jacob forced to flee from the land of Canaan and labor in the land of Aram to obtain a wife? (12; see Genesis 28:41-45) How is Ephraim in a similar situation? (14a)
11. The Lord used a prophet (Moses) to "bring" Israel out of Egypt and "keep" him, resulting in great blessing (13). What will the Lord "bring back" to Ephraim and "leave on" him?

"You are against Me, against your help" (Hosea 13)

12. Had Israel's idolatry stopped after Jehu destroyed Baal worship? (1-3) Read Isaiah 44:9-20 for another scathing critique of idolatry. What do the images in verse 3 mean for Israel?
13. What commandment does Hosea highlight from the time of the Exodus when God saved His people and cared for His people during their wandering? (13:4-5)
14. What changed when the people inherited the land of Canaan? (6) Instead of their savior, what will God be to the people now? (7-8)
15. What other kind of savior had Israel asked for and God provided, but failed to deliver? (9-11)
16. Verses 12-14 combine images of death, birth, and inevitability. Paul quotes verse 14 in I Corinthians 15:55. What does God intend to do for His people regarding death?
17. Summarize the graphic description of the coming destruction in verses 15-16.