**Hosea 12**

**Infidelity of Israel**

**Lesson 27**

1. **When did you feel closest to God this week? Was there a particular verse or lesson in our study of Hosea this week that you found inspiring in some way?**
2. **Compare the language in the NABRE and NRSV for verses below. What does each say about Judah at the time of Hosea?**

**Hosea 12 New American Bible (Revised Edition) (NABRE)**

**1**Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, the house of Israel, with deceit;  
*Judah still wanders about with gods, and is faithful to holy ones.***2**Ephraim shepherds the wind, and pursues the east wind all day long.  
He multiplies lies and violence: They make a covenant with Assyria,  
    and oil is carried to Egypt.

**Hosea 12 NRSV**

**1**Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit;

*But Judah still walks with God, and is faithful to the Holy One*.

Ephraim herds the wind, and pursues the east wind all day long;

they multiply falsehood and violence; they make a treaty with Assyria,

and oil is carried to Egypt.

1. In verses 3-7, the Lord refers to the ancestors of Israel. (Judah, the man, was a son of Jacob by his first wife Leah.) The name Judah means “thanksgiving” or “praise”.

**Why does the Lord have a dispute with *Judah*? How might this be a reflection on the tribe of Judah? See Hosea 12:3 and excerpts from Genesis 37 below.**

**Hosea 12:3-7 (NABRE)**

The Lord has a dispute with Judah, and will punish Jacob for his conduct,  
    and repay him for his deeds.**4**In the womb he supplanted his brother,  
    and in his vigor he contended with a divine being;**5**He contended with an angel and prevailed,

he wept and entreated him. At Bethel he met with him, and there he spoke with him.

**6**The Lord is the God of hosts, the Lord is his name!

**7**You must return to your God. Maintain loyalty and justice and always hope in your God.

**Genesis 37:3-4 3**Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph best of all his sons, for he was the child of his old age; and he had made him a long ornamented tunic.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+37&version=NABRE#fen-NABRE-1087c)] **4**When his brothers saw that their father loved him best of all his brothers, they hated him so much that they could not say a kind word to him.

**Genesis 37:17-19** So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan. **18**They saw him from a distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. **19**They said to one another: “Here comes that dreamer! **20**Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the cisterns here; we could say that a wild beast devoured him. We will see then what comes of his dreams.”

**Genesis 37:23-28 23**So when Joseph came up to his brothers, they stripped him of his tunic, the long, ornamented tunic he had on; **24**then they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it. **25**Then they sat down to eat. Looking up, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, their camels laden with gum, balm, and resin to be taken down to Egypt. **26**Judah said to his brothers: “What is to be gained by killing our brother and concealing his blood? **27**Come, let us sell him to these Ishmaelites, instead of doing away with him ourselves. After all, he is our brother, our own flesh.” His brothers agreed.

1. **Which events in the life of Jacob might be punished by the LORD? Which events suggest that the Lord was constantly with Jacob?**

**See Hosea 12:3-7** **above and excerpts from** **Genesis 27 below**.

**Genesis 27:6-7** Rebekah was listening as Isaac said this to his son **Esau**. **6**She said to her son Jacob, “Listen, I heard your father saying to your brother Esau, **7**‘Kill an animal and prepare some tasty food for me to eat. Then I will bless you in the presence of the Lord before I die.’

**Genesis 27:14-19 14**So Jacob went out and got two goats and brought them to his mother, and she cooked them in the special way Isaac enjoyed. **15**She took the best clothes of her older son Esau that were in the house and put them on the younger son Jacob. **16**She also took the skins of the goats and put them on Jacob’s hands and neck. **17**Then she gave Jacob the tasty food and the bread she had made.

**18**Jacob went in to his father and said, “Father.”

And his father said, “Yes, my son. Who are you?”

**19**Jacob said to him, “I am Esau, your first son. I have done what you told me. Now sit up and eat some meat of the animal I hunted for you. Then bless me.”

**For other Jacob info see Gen 25:26, Genesis 28:10-19,Genesis 30:25-33 and Gen 32:22–32.**

1. **What is it that the LORD is asking of Israel in verse 7? Can you see three things that the LORD requests here?**
2. **That social justice is lacking is a complaint mentioned in both Hosea and Amos.**

**What is the injustice that is noted in Hosea 12:8-9?**

**Hosea 12:8-9**

A merchant who holds a false balance,  
    he loves to extort!  
**9**Ephraim has said,  
    “How rich I have become;  
    I have made a fortune!”  
All his gain will not suffice for the guilt of his sin.



1. **What would Israel gain by returning to “living in tents”? See Hosea 12:10-12.**

**Hosea 12:10-12**

I the Lord have been your God,  
    since the land of Egypt;  
I will again have you live in tents,  
    as on feast days.  
**11**I spoke to the prophets,  
    I granted many visions,  
    and through the prophets I told parables.  
**12**In Gilead is falsehood, they have come to nothing;  
    in Gilgal they sacrifice bulls,  
But their altars are like heaps of stones  
    in the furrows of the field.

1. **What was Jacob willing to do in order to marry the woman he loved? Compare this to the things God did for his “bride,” Israel. See verses 13-14 as well as excerpts from Genesis 27, 28 and 29 below.**

**Hosea 12:13-14.**

Jacob fled to the land of Aram, and Israel served for a wife;  
    for a wife he tended sheep.  
**14**But by a prophet[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hosea+12&version=NABRE#fen-NABRE-26585e)] the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt,  
    and by a prophet Israel was tended.

**Gen 27:41**

**41**From that time on, Esau hated Jacob because their father had given Jacob the blessing. And Esau began to scheme: “I will soon be mourning my father’s death. Then I will kill my brother, Jacob.”

**Genesis 28:1-5** So Isaac called for Jacob, blessed him, and said, “You must not marry any of these Canaanite women. **2**Instead, go at once to Paddan-**aram**, to the house of your grandfather Bethuel, and marry one of your uncle Laban’s daughters. **3**May God Almighty bless you and give you many children. And may your descendants multiply and become many nations! **4**May God pass on to you and your descendants the blessings he promised to Abraham. May you own this land where you are now living as a foreigner, for God gave this land to Abraham.”

**5**So Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Paddan-**aram** to stay with his uncle Laban, his mother’s brother, the son of Bethuel the Aramean.

# Genesis 29:18-30 New American Bible (Revised Edition) (NABRE)

**18**Because Jacob loved Rachel, he answered, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” **19**Laban replied, “It is better to give her to you than to another man. Stay with me.” **20**So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, yet they seemed to him like a few days because of his love for her.

1. **Reflect on our lives as individuals, as a country and as Church. When is it that we too are “shepherding wind” or “pursuing the east wind”?**

**What practices can we participate in that will bring our focus back to the Lord and to what is truly important; steadfast love, loyalty, and mercy?**