

Pastor Jeremy M. Thomas
Fredericksburg Bible Church
107 East Austin
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
830-997-8834 jthomas@fbgbible.org

**C1009 – March 17, 2009 – Hosea 11:12-12:6 – How Jacob Handled
The Sins Of Perseverance**

The last verse of chapter 11 is actually the first verse of chapter 12. In Hosea 11:12 we have an address given to the northern kingdom. Ephraim is one of the tribes, the most populous tribe of the northern kingdom. In 926BC there was a civil war, the north separated from the south because of Rehoboam's oppressive political rule and so you have the division of the kingdom and this led to the decline of both the northern and southern kingdoms. That division is described in 1 Kgs 12 and following. Hosea is 200 years after the division has occurred and he lives in the north and he has been sent to tell the north that they have broken the Mosaic Covenant and are coming under God's judgment. Thus, Hosea is a model of how God convicts us of sin. That means that there are certain things to watch for in Hosea so that you can be alert as to how God does convict of sin and how He does not convict of sin because there are many false views of how God convicts of sin.

So Hosea is a model of this and in this passage beginning in verse 12 a particular kind of problem is faced, a problem which again gives us insight into our flesh and that is the problem of characteristics or life patterns passed on from father to son. The father here is going to be father Jacob; the son is both the northern and southern kingdoms centuries and centuries later and the point of these verses is that father Jacob's particular character has been communicated down through the family line either by genetics or by training but however this occurs there are certain characteristics passed on that can be directed either for good or for evil. And the principle that is going to be taught is that the father's characteristic that is passed on, when under the influence of the flesh, produces something terrible but when under the influence of the Holy Spirit produces something beautiful.

The characteristic that is mentioned here of Jacob is the characteristic of perseverance, continual pursuit. Jacob had this, it was part of his character and the two kingdoms that come from him have it. However they got it it's there. The father has it and the son has it and the grandson has it and so forth and it's transmitted down through the family. You have these and I have these and you want to be sensitive to these, recognize them in your own life, learn to master them the proper way, harness them and direct them toward the good. And by extension you want to watch for them in your children's life because they will show up and it's your responsibility as a parent to observe your children and pick up on these characteristics in your children and help train them to direct them in the proper orientation to build something good.

So the father transmits this thing to his son, and the argument is going to be that father Jacob had raw, ugly perseverance but before he died he figured out how to use his perseverance in the right way and his son has inherited his perseverance but has never learned how to use it. So they have failed as a family over many generations to harness this characteristic of perseverance and get it oriented to God's grace.

Now as you think about this characteristic of perseverance: perseverance has a hasty aspect to it, it is always on the move, rushing to get somewhere and so it is with Jacob and his son. They have great difficulty waiting on things, they just want to ram, cram and jam things into immediate results and that's not the way God works. God wants us to train to wait on Him and He'll get the glory for the results. And so very obviously one of the dangers of being a perseverer is the tendency to resort to gimmicks to get you where you want to be faster than playing the waiting game and God is saying, slow down, wait on Me and I'll get you there without all the gimmicks, without all the heartache which comes with the gimmicks.

And so as we work through chapter 12 you want to think about the question, what characteristics run through my family? What have I inherited from my father? What have I passed on to my children? And what are the some of the dangers associated with that characteristic? How can I train myself and my children to orient that characteristic in a godly direction to produce something for God's glory? Because if you don't do this it's going to eventually turn out just like father Jacob and his son: disaster.

Now Ephraim, in Hosea 11:12 God says, **Ephraim surrounds Me with lies And the house of Israel with deceit;** and the end of verse 12 is difficult in the Hebrew. I don't know how the end of verse 12 reads in your version but some of the translations make positive statements about Judah but this is inconsistent with the context. The end of verse 12 should be translated as a negative statement about Judah. The point being that Judah is also in trouble with God. They're not in as much trouble, yet, but they are in trouble.

¹²Ephraim surrounds Me with lies And the house of Israel with deceit; Judah is also unruly against God, Even against the Holy One who is faithful. Now both of those accusations made against **Ephraim** are negative critiques of this perseverance characteristic they inherited from father Jacob. In other words their perseverance has worked its way out into the sins of **lying** and **deceit**; they've taken their persevering character and utilized it to get things the wrong way. In fact, we know that father Jacob did the exact sins when he was a young man. Take lying, in Gen 27 Isaac told Esau to go out and get him some game, come back, prepare it and he would bless him. This was the great ceremony of blessing. But what happened? Rebekah overheard this little discussion and she told Jacob to disguise himself as Esau and she cooked up a nice meal and Jacob took it in to his father. And his father was blind and he couldn't see so he had to go strictly by the sound of his voice and the feeling of his skin and he suspected something wasn't right and so his father questioned him. Who are you? And what did Jacob do? He lied to his father and stole the blessing. So lying was one of the things that came out of Jacob's perseverance to get the blessing. The other thing that came out of Jacob's perseverance was this charge of **deceit**. The Hebrew word *mirma* is the word for craftiness, it's all about technique, this is the kind of person who senses he can get something out of you because your situation is working against you and so he takes advantage of you. And we know Jacob did this too. What's the story? Esau came in famished unto death. The guy was on his deathbed and needed some nourishment and Jacob is there stirring a pot of red stew and so what did Jacob do? Oh yes, you can have a bowl of stew, if you'll give me your birthright. And so he took advantage of Esau's situation and got the birthright. That's also in Gen 27 and the exact same Hebrew word is used of that event, *mirma*, it was an act of deceit. So these are dangerous ways that perseverance can break out when not harnessed properly. So Ephraim uses **lies** and **deceit**, and that was

exactly the father's weakness. Now Jacob managed to handle the problem and he got in fellowship and he became a wonderful person toward the end of his life. But Ephraim never got with it, so that's why it says **Ephraim surrounds Me with lies And the house of Israel with deceit**. In other words, they take the father's characteristic and they have amplified it in the wrong direction. Their perseverance has worked out into lies and deceit. They never got it under control as their father had done.

Now you may not catch the link between persevering and being a liar and deceiver. Why is this? Hosea 12:1 is going to tell us why. **Ephraim feeds on wind, And pursues the east wind continually; He multiplies lies and violence. Moreover, he makes a covenant with Assyria, And oil is carried to Egypt**. Now the last "and" should be a "but." And let's look at the last part of the verse, then we'll go back to the first part and see the principle. The last part of the verse is easier to see the details. **he makes a covenant with Assyria, But oil is carried to Egypt**. In other words, they're being deceitful in international foreign policy. They've made a deal with Assyria and they double-crossed Assyria and started shipping their goods down to Egypt.

Now you ask why are they trying to double-cross Assyria by sending the goods down to Egypt? All right, this conveys deceit so we see the pattern of deceit. Our problem is how do you link the strong perseverance character causing deceit? We see how it works out in history but how do we explain the cause/effect. The last part of Hosea 12:1 deals with the sin pattern of deceit. These people are what we would call covenant-breakers. They are people who waver, they can't keep an agreement. On Monday this looks like a good deal, on Friday it doesn't look like a good deal so they break the deal and they are up and down, totally unstable people. This is a pattern of deceit.

Now the beginning of verse 1 explains it. **Ephraim feeds on the wind**, the word for **wind** is *ruach*, it's the same Hebrew word for spirit or breath and **feeds** is a participle, it means it's their lifestyle to feed on the wind, over and over this is what has gone on. And we don't have to guess what he's talking about when he says **Ephraim feeds on the wind** because the Book of Ecclesiastes is all about this. It's the same thing as chasing after the wind, chasing after things that are vain, chasing after things that don't satisfy, that don't profit and this is the theme of Ecclesiastes. Solomon learned this the

hard way and he wrote a whole book about it so we won't be so stupid as to try and get happiness by vain things. Solomon tried everything you could possibly think of and more. He had more funds and intellect than you'll ever have to experiment with. And if you want to explore what he tried read the book, he tried psychological experiments, sex experiments, alcohol experiments, human good experiments, building experiments, money experiments, and all kinds of experiments that you think will give you happiness and fulfillment in life apart from grace. It's all there and Solomon said, you're not going to find it, it will never satisfy, once you run after something and get it you realize it's not all you made it out to be and you'll run after something else and it's just vanity, a chasing after the wind. So don't waste your time, the only thing that matters is doctrine, the only thing that can fulfill is a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Let's see more in Hosea. **Ephraim feeds on wind, And pursues the east wind continually;** So that feeding is a frenzy for happiness. They're frantically searching for a fulfilled life. And here are the six steps of deep, deep depravity again. When a person rejects the knowledge of God as the source of fulfillment, they say the heck with the word of God, and then they begin to cascade down this sequence of steps. Their mind is darkened, their conscience is seared, and they can't perceive spiritual things like they used to be able to. Then they begin taking in human view point very rapidly, they devour it and it's just sucking into this vacuum and filling it with human view point ways of thinking. Then demonic powers come in and they sweep this whole thing into an agitation, an instability like waves tossed to and fro. They can't believe the word of God anymore, they have replaced the word of God with the word of man and they are idolatrous and at this point you are in a lot of trouble because this just compounds the whole thing. It's very difficult to get out of idolatry. And out of this comes the social chaos which is what we're seeing in 11:12 and 12:1, the lying, the deceit, the covenant breaking that goes on in a society that has reached this point and finally judgment. God says that's it, I've had enough, you've rejected, rejected, rejected, now I judge.

You can usually tell how things are going by your attitude to the word of God. We can't be legalistic but it still remains that a person who is not interested in the word of God systematically and daily basically is not interested in God. I don't care what all the pious excuses are, I don't care what else is added by

way of explanation, if a person is not daily in the word there is something wrong spiritually.

When a person has sunk way down on this scale then the person becomes more and more and more frantic to fill the void that was created by a lack of doctrine, a lack of a relationship with Jesus Christ, and so there becomes a frantic search and this is what the verb **feeding** and **pursuing** is describing. The verb to feed is usually the verb used to feed on the word of God. But rather than feeding on the word of God they are feeding on the demonic gimmicks, the human view point, and all the boloney in life. They have rejected feeding on the word of God so they feed on the gimmicks.

He says this is typical of Ephraim, "Ephraim feeds on the wind, And pursues the east wind continually;" this east wind is the sirocco, the hot, dry, wind. I've seen this once when we passed from southern Jordan into Israel down by the Red Sea and we went through customs and we're standing on black pavement with the sun at its peak and you have to walk about 300 yards and there's nothing but this sirocco, this scorching, hot wind, you can hardly breathe and that's what this is saying, Israel is feeding on this nothingness continually. There's no life, there's no substance, it's just deadness. And this is the end of perseverance gone in the wrong direction, that tenacity to have, have, have but to try and have on the basis of gimmicks. There's no success. It's chasing after the wind.

And now in verse 1 you can see the connection with perseverance. They are frantically trying to find happiness and look at the gimmicks used to get it. **He multiplies lies and violence.** This is the kind of person who can't wait to have, can never wait on the Lord and so they resort to lies and violence to get it. And then he gives an international example of this frantic search for happiness and security, here's the nations leaders. **Moreover, he makes a covenant with Assyria, And oil is carried to Egypt.** The point is that they break the covenant. They make and break covenants. This can be used in business organization; it can be used in marriage relationships. If you have someone that operates like Ephraim was operating, constantly searching for happiness apart from Christ, those people will always break loyalty with you, and the reason they will break loyalty is because deep down in their heart, in spite of all the façade, the pious good works, in spite of all that deep down in

their heart they are searching for happiness. You just happen to be a means to happiness, at that time.

And the example of the Assyrians and Egypt was the national search for happiness, this passionate longing for security that YHWH promised them but we don't want it on YHWH's conditions, we want it on our conditions. So frantically they went to the Assyrians for security, they locked themselves into a contract with them. And they thought this would bring happiness and then when it looked like, oh, we can get better security over here, let's go down to Egypt. So the instability in personal relationships, the deceit, the lying, the breaking your word on a signed contract is all a manifestation of their orientation to God, they had broken their covenant with God so obviously they break their covenants with man. Always your relationships with man are revelatory of your relationship with God. If you cheat Him you'll cheat others, if you lie to Him, you'll lie to others. And so the person here is the one who is searching for happiness and security and then when something better comes along breaks that covenant and goes for another one. If you get that principle then the rest of this chapter will fall into place because it's the same thing over and over, the same pattern is throughout.

By rejecting the word of God, they get out of it and they could care less about it and now they're on a search for happiness somewhere else, happiness which is only found in Christ. But since they don't want God's terms it's got to be found some place else, and so this person turns around and you take a person with a Jacob type character, who's very, very strongly persistent, and they show this to a large degree. So they think, ah, here's a person, here's a friend, here's somebody I can trust, I have security with this person. And then this person turns out to be something less than desirable at times or they see somebody over here and somebody over here looks nicer, oh, I'm over here. See the point was that they weren't looking at this person as a friend; they were looking at what that person could do for them. That's not a friendship; that is one person using another person. And this is a lesson; this is a point of biblical wisdom. When you pick friends, confidants and so on, people that you can counsel with and talk to on a real level, not this surface stuff, real friends, then you better be picking friends not on the basis of what they can do for you or what they are doing for you, you better watch out for that. You better pick friends that are stable and are your friends on some other basis, namely Christ, people who understand that the only place you

can get happiness, the only place that you can find joy in life and stability, is Jesus Christ and the word. You can prevent a lot of the sorrow if ahead of time you will just do a little inspection. We don't mean you look at the person through a microscope but it means that you just sit back and observe, observe this person. What is it that motivates the person? When you see them latch on to something, why are they latching onto that and not something else? Is this a frantic search for happiness, a void that can only be filled by Jesus Christ and the word? Or is it some other thing that's going on.

All right, Ephraim is a kind of this person, this is a whole country of these people but we're trying to apply it in the Christian life and make uses. People who break contracts, in other words, people who use lying and deceit, people who cannot keep their word are basically people pursuing something else other than the friendship. And they're just using you.

Hosea 12:2, **The Lord also has a dispute with Judah**; the word **dispute** is our word *rib*, pronounced *reev*, a lawsuit. So both the northern and southern kingdoms are afflicted with this pattern of behavior because both of them are the sons of Jacob. Both have what we will call Jacob's characteristic of perseverance but they've never learned to orient it in the right direction. But the point is that both the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom, if you traced their family tree, come from father Jacob and they've learned this style of sinning. Now there are differences. The difference is that the northern kingdom is much farther gone than the southern kingdom and the northern kingdom had reached the point of no return; they were not going to return to the Lord God. But the southern kingdom still had an opportunity; they had not reached the point of no return. So verses 3-6 will deal with the southern kingdom, verses 7-14 will deal with the northern kingdom

So verse 2, **The Lord also has a lawsuit with Judah, And will punish Jacob according to his ways, He will repay him according to his deeds.** That all speaks of the *reev* proceedings, the lawsuit that God has against them. And so now he addresses the southern kingdom and the way he does it is by appealing to the father of the southern kingdom, Jacob and saying, O Judah, remember your father Jacob, he did certain things; think back to how your father dealt with his perseverance, he had problems with it just as you have problems with it and if you'll remember how you're father handled it then that will give you the model for how to handle it.

Now this is something you ought to think about as a parent. You have certain sin patterns that are coming out; something in your character is exacerbated by sin and shows up in a negative way. And now you have children, understand that you're children are going to follow a similar pattern and it's your responsibility to identify it in your children and do something about it. You want to head it off before it gets embedded deep down as habitual sin patterns in their lives because the longer you wait the more difficult they are to root out, they just embed themselves there and get to be a constant nuisance. This is why the doctrine taught today in human development courses is so silly: that a good parent is a hands off parent, just let these critters develop themselves, don't interfere, just let them become who they are. That is very bad parenting because all they are going to do is copy your sin patterns and be worse off than you and before long you're going to regret it and they're going to have serious problems. Isn't it interesting that you never have to teach children how to get in trouble but you do have to teach them how to stay out of it. And you are the only one who can teach them. You have a unique perspective because you're the parent and they come from you and you know the gimmick procedures of handling your problems and you know the godly ways of handling your problems if you've been spending time in the word. But that's the point of this passage, God is taking them back and saying, remember your father Jacob and how he handled it, learn what to do from him.

And so this is a way God convicts of sin. He's saying God the Holy Spirit brings conviction of sin through family patterns. So go back to your family history and learn from that. Be prepared to recognize that the Holy Spirit will often bring up your parents to correct a sin pattern. He will often put you in a situation where you're going to have a run in with your parents, have a falling out with them or something will happen between you and your parents. That isn't an accident; do you know why that's there? The Holy Spirit is telling you through that experience and through the word, hey, look, do you notice the way they are, the good points and the bad points, that's where you came from, that's your heritage spiritually. Now you'd better learn to do things better than they have. Don't look down your nose at them, just try to correct the situation, try to be more effective than they were.

So he's going back in verse 3 to the father and he's saying now I want to remind you of your spiritual heritage. Hosea 12:3, **In the womb he took his brother by the heel, And in his maturity he contended with God.**

⁴Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed; He wept and sought His favor. He found Him at Bethel And there He spoke with us, He's saying your father was a perseverer, a contender and this analysis is taken from incidents in Jacob's life recorded in Genesis. We haven't got time to go into all the incidents but the one of taking his brother by the heel in the womb is given in Genesis 25, a case where at birth the babies are born this way. Esau was born first, he had the birthright by virtue of birth order, but what was unique about this was that Jacob was grasping for the birthright, even in the womb this physical event was pointing to a spiritual bent about this child, this child was bent on getting the spiritual blessing. And that's why they named him Jacob. Jacob means a go-getter, a supplanter, someone who goes after things and takes, takes, takes and God is saying, even in the womb he was fighting to take it and if you had the spiritual eyes to see the significance of this grabbing the heel incident you would have insight into the bent of this child. And so this very early event in the womb is telling us that the whole bent of this child is established in the womb and that you can see it from birth.

Turn to Psalm 139 to see more of this. You discover from Ps 139 that a lot is happening in the womb during pregnancy. For nine months you have a tremendous thing being done by God. And this is why it's so important ladies to take care of your bodies during pregnancy. To not drink, to not try and lose weight and keep your figure during pregnancy, but to nourish yourself because God is building something inside of you that is very important. This is a Psalm of David and the reason he's talking about this baby development is because David had sin problems and he was one of the earliest believers in history to get his sin problems together. David, through his own personal experience failed many, many times, but he oriented to grace, and he struggled and struggled and said what is it that keeps causing me to fail the Lord all the time; I fail Him, fail Him, fail Him, fail Him, fail Him, and so David prayed about this thing and God helped David master this sin pattern; this is one of the earliest passages in the progress of revelation that teaches us about that these patterns get going as early as the womb.

Psalm 139:13, “For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;” the Hebrew word there for wrought is the word for the Hebrew woman as she embroidered material, and David is saying when I, when my body “was embroidered in the depths of the earth,” the depths of the earth being analogous to the woman’s womb. The earth being the material out of which Adam’s body was made. So in the first case we have the earth, we have God taking the earth in Gen 2 and forming the man’s body out of the earth. That is meant to be taken literally. God designed the human body and after He designed it He himself personally blew into it a spirit. Now David goes back to the analogy of the formation in the woman’s womb and he says during the pregnancy God is at work embroidering, shaping, forming the body, very, very special things are happening in the woman’s womb.

Verse 16, “Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained *for me*, When as yet there was not one of them.”

Now let’s understand what he’s saying. Look at that, in the womb David says, all my days were already written, they were ordained for me. I didn’t have a thing to do with it, I was in the womb and God was shaping me into the person He planned me to be. So there is a direct link to the formation during those nine months of pregnancy with the calling of that person for the rest of their life; that’s what this passage is saying and that’s why that period is a very, very special time. And that’s why women who are pregnant ought to take care of their bodies; they ought to be protected from injury because there’s a body inside their body that is being prepared for a life ministry.

Turn back to Hosea 12:3, this is the point; **In the womb he took his brother by the heel**

means that Jacob, while he was being formed, was given a go-getter personality, and shows that some of the personality of a child is formed during pregnancy, it’s not the result of culture, it’s not the result of external environment, these things may be important but there are things going on in the womb of the woman that are also important, even greater so. And this is saying that while Jacob was in the womb he was already had this go-getter

nature. So Jacob was built to be aggressive and persevering. This is a way of explanation, the Holy Spirit is trying to convict of sin, not to slam the person over the head, but to explain to us how we came to be who we are. So he goes back and he says look at the way your father was born; he was born with a body and a personality that had this perseverance to it, he grabbed his brother.

And in his maturity he contented with God 4Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed. And that's a reference to Genesis 32:24, turn there to watch one of the greatest wrestling matches in history. Jacob was the only person in history to wrestle Jesus Christ. Now if you think the Jew is tenacious today this should be an example of just how tenacious he is. He took on the pre-incarnate Son of God in a wrestling match. "Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak." In other words, the wrestling match went on and on all night long. And if you've ever wrestled or boxed someone, (I did this once in college and after about 5 minutes I was pooped) it takes tremendous amount of energy to keep this going on and it's saying that Jacob, when he became a man kept going, even though he was hurting, even though he was exhausted he kept on wrestling. Verse 25, at this point Jacob was winning, look at this, "When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him." And so at this point, Jesus Christ says that's it, I've had about enough of this and he knocked the hip joint so hard that he crippled Jacob, so hard that Jacob bore the marks of this for the rest of his life and everywhere he went he had this limp. And that's the point, just as he was very aggressive at birth so he was as a man.

Now verse 26, what is this man wrestling for? "Then he said," this is Jesus Christ saying this, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." In other words, Jacob still wouldn't quit, hip out of joint and he's still going after him and Jesus says, would you knock if off, and then we read this fantastic supplication by Jacob. "But he said I will not let you go unless you bless me." Now what's behind this supplication? There's no question he's tenacious, he's not going to quit until he gets this blessing. But what's behind the tenacity at this point? I realize that you have the upper hand and you have the authority to bless and that if you wanted to with your omnipotence you could obliterate me. But I don't want you to obliterate me; I want you to bless me. And so

finally what we have here in Jacob's life is that he's learned that the fleshly gimmicks of perseverance, the lying and the deceiving and the fighting are not going to get him the blessing. Simply asking the Lord is going to get the blessing. So verse 26 is the repentance of Jacob. Finally after trying to get everything on his own aggressive tenacity he realizes I can't do it. And so having submitted to the Lord Jesus Christ in verse 27 he receives the blessing.

Verse 27, "So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob" 28He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed." In other words, the Lord Jesus Christ said, fine, now I award you the victory. Now you've adjusted to my grace and you want it so bad finally you'll come to Me to get it then I give it to you. And so he names him Israel, one who wrestles with God. And Israel has always wrestled with God, it's deeply a part of their national character and it all goes back to this one man. He has left his mark on the nation forever and that's why they got the name Israel.

And so let's go back to Hosea and see how he handles this story. Hos 12:4, "Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed; He wept and sought His favor." And that's what we just read, he submitted to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Lord awarded him the victory.

And now the Holy Spirit says through Hosea to the southern kingdom, that was your father, that was how persevering your father was, he finally wept and sought God's favor so now you should do as your father had done. Stop with all the gimmicks and turn to me.

And the end of verse 4 Jacob had fully adjusted to God's grace. **He found Him at Bethel And there He spoke with us**, this comes from Gen 35 and in Gen 35 Jacob went to Bethel, why did Jacob go to Bethel? To get rid of the idolatry that was a part of his family. Remember the story of Rachel and how Jacob served Laban seven years for Leah and seven more for Rachel and here's this man who can't trust the Lord and he feared that Laban wouldn't let him go again so he secretly takes off with Leah and Rachel and on that little escape Rachel stole something from her father, Laban, and hid it away. What was it? Little statue gods - and so this idolatry had come into Jacob's family and it had grown until in Gen 35 he says that's it, we've had enough in the family, ditch the idolatry, we're going up to Bethel to worship God. And so

verse 4 is saying, Jacob finally got right with God and that's what you need to do, you need to ditch the idols and worship God.

Hos 12:5 Even the LORD, the God of hosts, The LORD is His name.

What's this about? This is about YHWH is God, YHWH is their security, YHWH is His name. Stop relying on other sources for security, stop trusting in other gods, stop the frantic search for happiness and return to Me. I'm the God of armies so you better get right with Me. These other things are dead. I command all powers angelic, human and natural. So while there's still time you better figure out what you're father Jacob figured out in Gen 35.

And Hos 12:6 is the invitation to the southern kingdom to figure it out. Look, you people are descended from Jacob, now look at how Jacob used his persevering nature given to him from birth, he used it to lie to deceive and to take, take, take, just like you're doing. But he finally figured it out and he turned it into an asset. He turned that stubbornness and that tenacity around by God's grace until he understood how to get blessing. So he says in verse 6, **Therefore, return to your God, Observe kindness and justice, And wait for your God continually.** And that's the commandment to the southern kingdom, to return to your God means repentance, have a change of mind about God that results in a change of behavior. That's genuine repentance.

And look at the change of lifestyle that will result, three things: **observe kindness** that means to keep covenant. No longer break covenant with Me but to keep covenant, the reverse of verse 1 where they broke covenant, that's the general statement. Then we have the specific statement, **observe...justice** and this means apply the word to the details of life. So a) become loyal to God through the covenant and b) apply the covenant to the details of your life - follow the principles of the word of God in every area of life.

And then finally the third thing that is told the southern kingdom, is *qawa*, **wait for your God continually** and that's something persevering people have a very difficult time doing. They have difficulty waiting, always trying to rush things and satisfy their eagerness and God says wait, just wait on me and stop jumping into all the gimmicks. I'll solve your problems in My time

and My way, if you'll just wait on me. And so the third thing is to be patient and wait on God to solve your problems and stop getting frantic.

Alright, that covers the southern kingdom, they were not so far gone yet, they still had time to return to God. Next time we'll look at the northern kingdom who had run out of time and God handles them a bit differently but under the same heading, that they had the father Jacob as well and they also had his persevering character and had taken it the wrong direction but their problem is worse because there was no turning back for them, they had crossed the point of no return.

[Back To The Top](#)

Copyright (c) Fredericksburg Bible Church 2010