

“SURROUNDING GOD WITH LOVE—OR LIES”

Hosea 11:12-12:6

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INTRODUCITON

God deserves our love; He deserves our trust. He deserves our faithfulness, He deserves our loyalty. He does not deserve our lies, deceit, unfaithfulness, worldliness, or human alliances—relying on the world for help rather than on Him.

He is the God of the covenant who is self-sufficient and eternal; He is the Holy and Faithful One; He is the omnipotent Lord of Hosts who leaves us a memorial of His perfect being in His special name. Why should anyone turn from Him?

Surround God with love—not lies.

- I. THE PROBLEM (11:12-12:2)
 - A. Mistreating God (12)
 1. Surrounding Him with lies and deceit
 2. Being unruly against God
 - B. Pursuing Vanity and Ruin (1)
 1. Pursuing the wind
 2. Pursuing the East wind—fierce, hot, dry, deadly, destructive
 3. Multiplying lies
 4. Multiplying violence and destruction
 5. Entangling political alliances
 - a. A covenant with Assyria
 - b. Oil to Egypt
 - C. Experiencing God’s Displeasure (2)
 1. Yahweh has a “dispute” with Judah.
 2. Yahweh will “visit in order to punish” Jacob.
 3. Jacob is punished as he deserves.
 - a. “According to his ways”
 - b. “According to his deeds”
- II. THE SOLUTION (12:3-6)
 - A. Turn Back to your spiritual forefather (3-4)
 1. He sought spiritual blessings in his youth
 - He took his brother by the heel.

- In this way he gained his name.
 - This action is presented in a positive light here.
2. He pursued God's blessing in his adulthood
 - a. He contended with God.
 - He wrestled with the Angel of the Lord and prevailed
 - He was persistent.
 - His power was found in his repentance and prayer.
 - b. He found God at Bethel
 - c. God spoke with him (and all His people) at Bethel.
- B. Turn Back to the Lord (5-6)
1. His nature (5)
 - a. Yahweh
 - b. God of Hosts
 - c. His "memorial name"
 - d. The Holy One (11:12)
 - e. The Faithful One (11:12)
 2. His Requirements (6)
 - a. Toward Men
 - Loyal Love
 - Justice
 - b. Toward God
 - Wait for Him
 - Continually be consistent

CONCLUSION

Seek the Lord with your whole heart. Wait on Him with complete trust.
Practice loyal love and justice toward men.

Surround God with love, and not lies.