

¹أَفْرَايِمُ رَاعِي الرِّيحِ وَتَابِعُ الرِّيحِ الشَّرِيقِيَّةِ. كُلَّ يَوْمٍ يُكْثِرُ
الْكَذِبَ وَالْإِعْنِصَابَ، وَيَقْطَعُونَ مَعَ أَشُورَ عَهْدًا، وَالرَّيْتُ
إِلَى مِصْرَ يُجْلَبُ.² فَلِلرَّبِّ خِصَامٌ مَعَ يَهُودَا، وَهُوَ مُرْمِعٌ أَنْ
يُعَاقِبَ يَعْقُوبَ بِحَسَبِ طُرُقِهِ. بِحَسَبِ أَفْعَالِهِ يَزُدُّ
عَلَيْهِ.³ فِي الْبُطْنِ قَبَضَ يَعْقِبَ أَخِيهِ، وَبِقُوَّتِهِ جَاهَدَ مَعَ
اللَّهِ.⁴ جَاهَدَ مَعَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ وَعَلَبَ. بَكَى وَاسْتَرْجَمَهُ. وَجَدَهُ
فِي بَيْتِ إِبِلَ وَهُنَاكَ تَكَلَّمَ مَعَنَا.⁵ وَالرَّبُّ إِلَهُ الْجُنُودِ يَهُوَهُ
اسْمُهُ.⁶ وَأَنْتَ فَارِجٌ إِلَى إِلَهِكَ. إِحْفَظِ الرَّحْمَةَ وَالْحَقَّ،
وَأَنْتَظِرُ إِلَهَكَ دَائِمًا.⁷ مِنْهُ الْكَتَعَانِيُّ فِي يَدِهِ مَوَازِينُ
الْعِشِّ. يُجِبُّ أَنْ يَطْلِمَ.⁸ فَقَالَ أَفْرَايِمُ، إِنِّي صِرْتُ غَنِيًّا.
وَجَدْتُ لِنَفْسِي تَرَوْهَ. جَمِيعُ أَنْعَابِي لَا يَجِدُونَ لِي فِيهَا
دَبًّا هُوَ خَطِيئَةٌ.⁹ وَأَنَا الرَّبُّ إِلَهُكَ مِنْ أَرْضِ مِصْرَ حَتَّى
أَسْكِنَكَ الْخِيَامَ كَأَيَّامِ الْمَوْسِمِ.¹⁰ وَكَلَّمْتُ الْأَنْبِيَاءَ وَكَثَّرْتُ
الرُّؤْيَى، وَبَدِدَ الْأَنْبِيَاءُ مَثَلْتُ أَمْثَالًا.¹¹ إِنَّهُمْ فِي جِلْعَادَ قَدْ
صَارُوا إِنَّمَا، بَطْلًا لَا عَيْزَ. فِي الْجَلْجَالِ دَبَّحُوا شِرَارًا،
وَمَذَابِحُهُمْ كَزَجَمٍ فِي أَلْطَامِ الْحَقْلِ.¹² وَهَرَبَ يَعْقُوبُ إِلَى
صَحْرَاءِ أَرَامَ، وَخَدَمَ إِسْرَائِيلُ لَأَجْلِ امْرَأَةٍ، وَلَأَجْلِ امْرَأَةٍ
رَعَى.¹³ وَبَنِيَّ أَصْعَدَ الرَّبُّ إِسْرَائِيلَ مِنْ مِصْرَ، وَبَنِيَّ
خُفِظَ.¹⁴ أَعَاظَهُ إِسْرَائِيلُ بِمَرَارَةٍ، فَيَتْرُكُ دِمَاءَهُ عَلَيْهِ،
وَيَزُدُّ سَيِّدُهُ غَارَهُ عَلَيْهِ.

¹Ephraim feedeth on wind, and followeth after the east wind: he daily increaseth lies and desolation; and they do make a covenant with the Assyrians, and oil is carried into Egypt.²The LORD hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him.³He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God:⁴Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us;⁵Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD is his memorial.⁶Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.⁷He is a merchant, the balances of deceit are in his hand: he loveth to oppress.⁸And Ephraim said, Yet I am become rich, I have found me out substance: in all my labours they shall find none iniquity in me that were sin.⁹And I that am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt will yet make thee to dwell in tabernacles, as in the days of the solemn feast.¹⁰I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.¹¹Is there iniquity in Gilead? surely they are vanity: they sacrifice bullocks in Gilgal; yea, their altars are as heaps in the furrows of the fields.¹²And Jacob fled into the country of Syria, and Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he kept sheep.¹³And by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved.¹⁴Ephraim provoked him to anger most bitterly:

Hosea 12

therefore shall he leave his blood upon
him, and his reproach shall his Lord return
unto him.