

Hosea 11:1-12:1

Hosea 11:1 – “When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.”

1121 [e]	7121 [e]	4714 [e]	157 [e]	3478 [e]	5288 [e]	3588 [e]
lib·nî.	qā·rā·tî	ū·mim·miṣ·ra·yim	wā·'ō·hā·bê·hū;	yis·rā·'êl	na·'ar	kî
לְבָנִי	קָרָאתִי	וּמִמִּצְרַיִם	וְאֶהְבֵּהוּ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	נֶעַר	כִּי 1
My son	I called	and out of Egypt	and I loved him	Israel [was]	a child	When
Prep-I N-msc 1cs	V-Qal-Perf-1cs	Conj-w, Prep-m N-proper-fs	Conj-w V-Qal-ConseclImperf-1cs 3ms	N-proper-ms	N-ms	Conj

1. YHWH speaks as a father about his child:
 - a. Loved
 - b. Called
2. Exodus 4:22-23 – “Then say to Pharaoh, ‘This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son, and I told you, ‘Let my son go, so he may worship me.’ But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.”
3. In Matthew 2:15 this exact verse is used to refer to Jesus:

“So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

 - a. Jesus life was a parallel to the life of the nation of Israel in many ways, because:
 - i. Israel and Jesus were chosen to be God’s sons and, so, heirs
 - ii. What Israel failed to successfully accomplish, Jesus would victoriously finish what Israel was called to do.

Hosea 11:2 – “The more they were called,
the more they went away;
they kept sacrificing to the Baals
and burning offerings to idols.”

2076 [e]	1168 [e]	6440 [e]	1980 [e]	3651 [e]	7121 [e]
yə·zab·bê·hū,	lab·bə·'ā·lîm	mip·pə·nê·hem,	hā·lə·kū	kên lā·hem;	qā·rə·'ū
יִזְבְּחוּ	לְבַעֲלִים	מִפְּנֵיהֶם	הֲלָכוּ	כֵן לָהֶם	קָרְאוּ 2
they sacrificed	to the Baals	from them	they went	so them	[As] they called
V-Piel-Imperf-3mp	Prep-I, Art N-proper-ms	Prep-m N-mpc 3mp	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	Adv Prep 3mp	V-Qal-Perf-3cp

6999 [e]	6456 [e]
yə·qaṭ·tê·rūn.	wə·lap·pə·si·lîm
יִקְטְרוּן	וְלִפְסָלִים
burned incense	and to carved images
V-Piel-Imperf-3mp Pn	Conj-w, Prep-I, Art N-mp

1. Everything about God is good and favorable.
2. Everything about man (or, Israel) is evil and rebellious
3. Israel could not respond positively to the grace of YHWH.

Hosea 11:3 – “Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;
I took them up by their arms,
but they did not know that I healed them.”

3808 [e]	2220 [e]	5921 [e]	3947 [e]	669 [e]	7270 [e]	595 [e]	
wə-lō	zə-rō-w-’ō-tāw;	’al-	qā-ḥām	lə-’ep-ra-yim,	tir-gal-tî	wə-’ā-nō-kî	
וְלֹא	—	זָרְעֵתָיו	עַל-	קָחָם	לְאֶפְרַיִם	תִּרְגַּלְתִּי	וְאֲנֹכִי 3
but not		their arms	by	Taking them	Ephraim	taught to walk	And I
Conj-w Adv-NegPrt		N-fpc 3ms	Prep	V-Qal-Perf-3ms 3mp	Prep-I N-proper-ms	V-Tifl-Perf-1cs	Conj-w Pro-1cs

7495 [e]	3588 [e]	3045 [e]
rə-pā-tîm.	kî	yā-də-’ū
רָפָאתֵי:	כִּי	יָדְעוּ
I healed them	that	they did know
V-Qal-Perf-1cs 3mp	Conj	V-Qal-Perf-3cp

1. Continuation of the Father image:
 - a. Taught his boy to walk
 - b. When his boy couldn’t walk he held him up by his arms to help him learn
 - c. When his boy was injured or sick he healed him
2. Israel did not realize (just as a very young child) all that their father had done for them

Hosea 11:4 – “I led them with cords of kindness,
with the bands of love,
and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws,
and I bent down to them and fed them.”

1961 [e]	160 [e]	5688 [e]	4900 [e]	120 [e]	2256 [e]
wā-’eh-yeh	’a-ḥā-ḇāh,	ba-’ā-ḇō-tō-wt	’em-šə-kém	’ā-dām	bə-ḥab-lê
וָאֵהְיָה	אַהֲבָה	בַּעֲבֹתוֹת	אֲמַשְׁכֶּם	אָדָם	בְּחַבְלֵי 4
and I was	of love	with bands	I drew them	gentle	With cords
Conj-w V-Qal-Conseclmp-1cs	N-fs	Prep-b N-cpc	V-Qal-Imperf-1cs 3mp	N-ms	Prep-b N-mpc

398 [e]	413 [e]	328 [e]	3895 [e]	5921 [e]	5923 [e]	7311 [e]
’ō-w-ḵîl.	’ê-lāw	wə-’at	lə-ḥê-hem;	’al	’ōl	kim-rî-mê
אוֹכִיל:	אֵלָיו	וָאֲט	לְחֵיָהֶם	עַל	עַל	כַּמְרִימֵי
[and] fed	them	and I stooped	their neck	from	the yoke	as those who take
V-Hifil-Imperf-1cs	Prep 3ms	Conj-w V-Hifil-Imperf.Jus-1cs	N-fpc 3mp	Prep	N-ms	Prep-k V-Hifil-Prtcpl-mpc

1. Either continuing the image of the father, or switching during this verse to the master of a beast of burden.
 - a. Cords of kindness
 - i. could be cords and bands used by a father to help support their son while he is learning to walk
 - ii. but, more likely, refers to gentle cords and bands (ropes) that are being used to lead the animal to their food after having taken the yoke of labor off the animal.
 - b. Bands of love
 - c. Eases the yoke on their jaws
 - d. Bent down to feed them – not only does the farmer take the yoke off, and gently lead the animal to the food, the farmer also bends down and hand feeds the animal once the animal is led to the food.
2. Typical of human nature, Israel despised these gracious demonstrations by the Lord.

Hosea 11:5 – **“They shall not return to the land of Egypt, but Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me.”**

3588 [e]	4428 [e]	1931 [e]	804 [e]	4714 [e]	776 [e]	413 [e]	7725 [e]	3808 [e]
kî	mal·kôw;	hū	wə·'aš·šūr	miš·ra·yim,	'e·reš	'el-	yā·šūḅ	lō
כי	מלְכוֹ	הוא	וְאַשּׁוּר	מִצְרַיִם	אֶרֶץ	אֶל-	יָשׁוּב	לֹא
because	shall be his king	it	but Assyria	of Egypt	the land	to	He shall return	Not
Conj	N-msc 3ms	Pro-3ms	Conj-w N-proper-fs	N-proper-fs	N-fsc	Prep	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Adv-NegPrt

7725 [e]	3985 [e]
lā·šūḅ.	mē·'ā·nū
לֹא יָשׁוּב:	מֵאֲנִי
to repent	they refused
Prep-l V-Qal-Inf	V-Piel-Perf-3cp

1. The “Egypt” situation in the book of Hosea: Is Israel GOING TO EGYPT or is Israel NOT GOING TO EGYPT?
 - a. Here some translators and commentators read “NOT return to the land of Egypt” as “SURELY return to the land of Egypt”
 - b. Then, there are these verses in Hosea:
 - i. 8:13 – “As for my sacrificial offerings, they sacrifice meat and eat it, but the LORD does not accept them. Now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins; they shall return to Egypt.”
 - ii. 9:3 – “They shall not remain in the land of the LORD, but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean food in Assyria.”
 - iii. 9:6 – “For behold, they are going away from destruction; but Egypt shall gather them; Memphis shall bury them.
 - iv. 11:11 – “they shall come trembling like birds from Egypt, and like doves from the land of Assyria, and I will return them to their homes, declares the LORD.”

- c. This might be addressing the fact Israel tried to get Egypt to help them against their Assyrian overlords which would make this verse mean:
 “They shall not get help from Egypt against their Assyrian king.”

Hosea 11:6 – **“The sword shall rage against their cities, consume the bars of their gates, and devour them because of their own counsels.”**

398 [e]	905 [e]	3615 [e]	5892 [e]	2719 [e]	2342 [e]
wə·'ā·kālāh;	bad·dāw	wə·kīl·le·tāh	bə·'ā·rāw,	ḥe·reb	wə·ḥā·lāh
וַאֲכַלְהָ	בְּדָוּ	וּכְלֹתָהּ	בְּעָרָיו	הַרֵב	וַחֲלָהּ 6
and consume [them]	his districts	and Devour	in his cities	the sword	And shall slash
Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3fs	N-mpc 3ms	Conj-w V-Piel-ConjPerf-3fs	Prep-b N-fpc 3ms	N-fs	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3fs

4156 [e]
 mim·mō·'ā·šō·w·tê·hem.
 מִמְעַצְוֹתֵיהֶם:
 because of their own counsels
 Prep-m | N-fpc | 3mp

Hosea 11:7 – **“My people are bent on turning away from me, and though they call out to the Most High, he shall not raise them up at all.”**

7121 [e]	5920 [e]	413 [e]	4878 [e]	8511 [e]	5971 [e]
yiq·rā·'u·hū,	'al	wə·'el-	lim·šū·bā·tî;	tē·lū·'îm	wə·'am·mî
יִקְרְאוּהוּ	עַל	וְאֵל-	לְמַשׁוּבְתִי	תְּלוֹאִים	וְעַמִּי 7
they call	the Most High	and Though to	on backsliding from Me	are bent	And My people
V-Qal-Imperf-3mp 3ms	N-ms	Conj-w Prep	Prep-l N-fsc 1cs	V-Qal-QalPassPrtpcl-mp	Conj-w N-msc 1cs

7311 [e] 3808 [e] 3162 [e]
 ye·rō·w·mêm lō ya·ḥad
 יְרוּמִים: לֹא יִחַד
 exalt [Him] none at all
 V-Piel-Imperf-3ms | 3mp Adv-NegPrt Adv

Hosea 11:8 – **“How can I give you up, O Ephraim?”**

How can I hand you over, O Israel?
 How can I make you like Admah?
 How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
 My heart recoils within me;
 my compassion grows warm and tender."



514 [e]	349 [e]	3478 [e]	4042 [e]	669 [e]	514 [e]	349 [e]
'et·ten·kā	'ék	yíś·rā·'ēl,	'ā·mag·gen·kā	'ep·ra·yim,	'et·ten·kā	'ék
אֶתְנַתֵּךְ	אֵיךְ ?	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֲמַגְנֶנְךָ ?	אֶפְרַיִם	אֶתְנַתֵּךְ	אֵיךְ 8
can I make you	how	Israel	[How] can I hand you over	Ephraim	can I give you up	How
V-Qal-Imperf-1cs 2ms	Interjection	N-proper-ms	V-Piel-Imperf-1cs 2ms	N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-1cs 2ms	Interjection

5150 [e]	3648 [e]	3162 [e]	3820 [e]	5921 [e]	2015 [e]	6636 [e]	7760 [e]	126 [e]
ni·hū·māy.	nik·mē·rū	ya·had	lib·bf,	'ā·lay	neh·pak	kiṣ·bō·yim;	'ā·śí·me·kā	ke·'aḡ·māh,
נִחוּמִי:	נִכְמְרוּ	יחד	לְבִי	עָלַי	נִהַפֵּךְ ?	כַּצְבֹּאִים	אֲשִׁימָךְ ?	כְּאַדְמָה
My sympathy	is stirred	together	My heart	within Me	churns	like Zeboiim	[How] can I set you	like Admah
N-mpc 1cs	V-Nifal-Perf-3cp	Adv	N-msc 1cs	Prep 1cs	V-Nifal-Perf-3ms	Prep-k N-proper-fs	V-Qal-Imperf-1cs 2ms	Prep-k N-proper-fs

1. YHWH is committed to Israel and cannot abandon his plan and purpose for Israel. This is a theme throughout the prophets who spoke of coming judgment:
 - a. Isaiah 49:15 – ““Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.”

- b. Jeremiah 31:20 – “
2. Verses like these capture more than the covenant commitment YHWH has to Israel, but demonstrate the personhood of the living deity who has a connection to Israel just like a father or a mother has to their child. This would be called compassion:
 - a. Deuteronomy 32:36 – “For the LORD will vindicate his people and have **compassion** on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone and there is none remaining, bond or free.”
 - b. 2 Kings 13:23 – “But the LORD was gracious to them and had **compassion** on them, and he turned toward them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, nor has he cast them from his presence until now.”
 - c. 2 Chronicles 36:15 – “The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had **compassion** on his people and on his dwelling place.”
 - d. Psalm 79:8 – “Do not remember against us our former iniquities; let your **compassion** come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low.”
 - e. Psalm 103:13 – “As a father shows **compassion** to his children, so the LORD shows **compassion** to those who fear him.”
 - f. Isaiah 14:1 – “For the LORD will have compassion on Jacob and will again choose Israel, and will set them in their own land, and sojourners will join them and will attach themselves to the house of Jacob.”
 3. Admah and Zeboiim are two cities totally destroyed along with Sodom:
 - a. Genesis 14:2, 8 – “fought against King Bera of Sodom, King Birsha of Gomorrah, King Shinab of **Admah**, King Shemeber of **Zeboiim**, and the king of Bela (also called Zoar)... Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of **Admah**, the king of **Zeboiim**, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out, and they joined battle in the Valley of Siddim.”
 - b. Deuteronomy 29:23 – “the whole land burned out with brimstone and salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, **Admah**, and **Zeboiim**, which the LORD overthrew in his anger and wrath—“
 4. Israel will be preserved through a remnant as mentioned in Romans 11:5 – “So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace.”

Hosea 11:9 – “**I will not execute my burning anger;**

**I will not again destroy Ephraim;
for I am God and not a man,
the Holy One in your midst,
and I will not come in wrath.”**

410 [e]	3588 [e]	669 [e]	7843 [e]	7725 [e]	3808 [e]	639 [e]	2740 [e]	6213 [e]	3808 [e]
'êl	kî	'ep-rā-yim;	le·ša·hêt	'a·šūb	lō	'ap·pî,	hā·rō·wn	'e·'ē·śeh	lō
אל	כי	אֶפְרַיִם	לְשַׁחַת	אָשׁוּב	לֹא	אָפִי	חַרוֹן	אֶעֱשֶׂה	לֹא 9
God	for	Ephraim	destroy	I will again	not	of My anger	the fierceness	I will execute	Not
N-ms	Conj	N-proper-ms	Prep-I V-Piel-Inf	V-Qal-Imperf-1cs	Adv-NegPrt	N-msc 1cs	N-msc	V-Qal-Imperf-1cs	Adv-NegPrt

5892 [e]	935 [e]	3808 [e]	6918 [e]	7130 [e]	582 [e]	3808 [e]	595 [e]
bə·'îr.	'ā·bō·w	wə·lō	qā·dō·wōš,	bə·qir·bə·kā	'îš,	wə·lō-	'ā·nō·kî
בְּעִיר:	אָבוֹא	וְלֹא	קָדוֹשׁ	בְּקִרְבְּךָ	אִישׁ	וְלֹא-	אֲנֹכִי
with terror	I will come	and not	the Holy one	in your midst	man	and not	I [am]
Prep-b N-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-1cs	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt	Adj-ms	Prep-b N-msc 2ms	N-ms	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt	Pro-1cs

1. YHWH is not left with only one option: Destructive Judgment of Israel
2. YHWH is not a man, so he can do something more. YHWH is “the Holy One in your midst”!
God can become one of Israel and come to them not in wrath, but in mercy and Love. Thus, the Gospels and the Savior
3. This is the turning point of restoration

**Hosea 11:10 – “They shall go after the Lord;
he will roar like a lion;
when he roars,
his children shall come trembling from the west;”**

7580 [e]	1931 [e]	3588 [e]	7580 [e]	738 [e]	1980 [e]	3068 [e]	310 [e]
yiš·'aḡ,	hū	kî-	yiš·'āḡ;	kə·'ar·yêh	yê·lə·kū	Yah·weh	'a·hā·rê
יִשָּׂאג	הוּא	כִּי	יִשָּׂאג	כְּאַרְיֵה	יֵלְכוּ	יְהוָה	אַחֲרָי 10
roars	He	when	He will roar	like a lion	they shall walk	Yahweh	After
V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Pro-3ms	Conj	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Prep-k N-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	N-proper-ms	Prep

3220 [e]	1121 [e]	2729 [e]
mî·yām.	bā·nîm	wə·ye·her·dū
מִיָּם:	בָּנִים	וַיִּתְרַדּוּ
from the west	[His] sons	and shall come trembling
Prep-m N-ms	N-mp	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjImperf-3mp

1. Does “my sheep know my voice” apply here?

**Hosea 11:11 – “they shall come trembling like birds from Egypt,
and like doves from the land of Assyria,
and I will return them to their homes, declares the Lord.”**

804 [e]	776 [e]	3123 [e]	4714 [e]	6833 [e]	2729 [e]
'aš·šūr;	mê·'e·reš	ū·kə·yō·w·nāh	mim·miš·ra·yim,	kə·šip·pō·wr	ye·ḥer·dū
— אַשּׁוּר	מֵאֶרֶץ	וּכְיוֹנָה	מִמִּצְרַיִם	כְּצִפּוֹר	יִחְרְדוּ 11
of Assyria	from the land	and Like a dove	from Egypt	like a bird	They shall come trembling
N-proper-fs	Prep-m N-fsc	Conj-w, Prep-k N-fs	Prep-m N-proper-fs	Prep-k N-cs	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp

	3068 [e]	5002 [e]	1004 [e]	5921 [e]	3427 [e]
s	Yah·weh.	nə·'um-	bāt·tê·hem	'al-	wə·hō·wō·šab·tîm
ס .	יְהוָה:	נֹאֵם-	בְּתֵיחֵם	עַל-	וְהוֹשַׁבְתִּים
-	Yahweh	says	their houses	in	and I will let them dwell
Punc	N-proper-ms	N-msc	N-mpc 3mp	Prep	Conj-w V-Hifil-ConjPerf-1cs 3mp

- 11:10-11 is YHWH restoring Israel in the distant eschatological future. This is the second Exodus.
- The Lion of the tribe of Judah
- In that day they will be ready to respond positively to the Lord.
- What changed? Their heart of stone (human sin nature) has been converted to a heart of flesh (responsive to the Holy Spirit)

Hosea 11:12 – **“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.”**

5750 [e]	3063 [e]	3478 [e]	1004 [e]	4820 [e]	669 [e]	3585 [e]	5437 [e]
'ōd	wī·hū·dāh,	yis·rā·'êl;	bêṭ	ū·bə·mir·māh	'eḗ·ra·yim,	bə·ka·ḥaš	sə·bā·bu·nī
עַד	וַיְהוּדָה	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בֵּית	— וּבְמִרְמָה	אֶפְרַיִם	בְּלִחַשׁ	סָבְבֵנִי 12
still	but Judah	of Israel	the house	and with deceit	Ephraim	with lies	Has encircled Me
Adv	Conj-w N-proper-ms	N-proper-ms	N-msc	Conj-w, Prep-b N-fs	N-proper-ms	Prep-b N-ms	V-Qal-Perf-3cp 1cs

	539 [e]	6918 [e]	5973 [e]	410 [e]	5973 [e]	7300 [e]
.	ne·'ē·mān.	qə·dō·wō·šîm	wə·'im-	'êl,	'im-	rād
.	נֶאֱמָן:	קְדוֹשִׁים	וְעִם-	אֵל	עִם-	רָד
	[who is] faithful	the Holy one	and Even with	God	with	walks
	V-Nifal-Prtcpl-ms	Adj-mp	Conj-w Prep	N-ms	Prep	V-Qal-Perf-3ms

- Israel’s last king Hoshea would be taken captive by Assyria in 725 BC and Shalmaneser V invaded and laid siege on Samaria that same year. Samaria would fall to Sargon II in 722 BC.
- The days of Hosea (760-710 BC) were some of Judah’s better days of obedience as king Hezekiah (715-686 BC) was led by the prophet Isaiah (740-681 BC).
- Israel has surrounded YHWH worship with “lies” or false realities and deceptive ideologies.

4. But, some translations are critical of Judah saying that Judah still walks with deity, which is el in Hebrew, the name of the high god in Canaanite worship (El is over Baal). Notice it would seem better to say Judah is still walking with YHWH, the covenant name of their God.
5. Likewise, “the Holy One” may not be YHWH here, but the holy gods of Baal worship, which is all the local Baals.

Hosea 12: 1 – **“Ephraim feeds on the wind and pursues the east wind all day long; they multiply falsehood and violence; they make a covenant with Assyria, and oil is carried to Egypt.”**

7701 [e]	3577 [e]	3117 [e]	3605 [e]	6921 [e]	7291 [e]	7307 [e]	7462 [e]	669 [e]
wā-šōd	kā-zāb	hay-yō-wm	kāl-	qā-dīm,	wə-rō-dēp	rū-ah	rō-'eh	'ep-ra-yim
– וְשׂוֹד	כָּזָב	הַיּוֹם	כָּל-	– קְדִים	וְרֹדֵף	רוּחַ	רֹעֵה	אֶפְרַיִם 1
and desolation	lies	daily	all	the east [wind]	and pursues	on the wind	feeds	Ephraim
Conj-w N-ms	N-ms	Art N-ms	N-msc	N-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	N-cs	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	N-proper-ms
2986 [e]	4714 [e]	8081 [e]	3772 [e]	804 [e]	5973 [e]	1285 [e]	7235 [e]	
yū-bāl.	le-miṣ-ra-yim	wə-še-men	yik-rō-tū,	'aš-šūr	'im-	ū-bə-rīt	yar-beh;	
• יוּבָל:	לְמִצְרַיִם	וְשֶׁמֶן	יִכְרְתוּ	אַשּׁוּר	עִם-	וּבְרִית	יַרְבֵּה	
is carried	to Egypt	and oil	they make	Assyria	with	and a covenant	He increases	
V-Hofal-Imperf-3ms	Prep-l N-proper-fs	Conj-w N-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	N-proper-fs	Prep	Conj-w N-fs	V-Hifil-Imperf-3ms	

1. “wind”
 - a. Refers to false philosophies and alternative realities created and embraced by Israel. This “wind” was sown as a seed into their culture, media and schools to grow into a whirlwind:
“For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. The standing grain has no heads; it shall yield no flour; if it were to yield, strangers would devour it.” – Hosea 8:7
 - b. Wind could refer to the character trait of those false philosophies and alternative realities in that the wind is:
 - i. elusive (you cannot catch it)
 - ii. represents emptiness
 - iii. endless and unknown
2. “feeds” – **roeh** -
 - a. The Hebrew word means “feed on” when used of cattle grazing. So, cattle graze.
 - b. The Hebrew word means “shepherd” when used in reference to humans. So, humans shepherd the cattle.
 - c. When this is compared to the next line in the verse “and pursue the east wind all day long”, this becomes clearer that Israel is trying to shepherd the wind and end up chasing it endlessly with no productivity.
3. “East wind” –
 - a. In Israel a west wind is a normal daily occurrence blowing in off the Mediterranean Sea, but an East wind is destructive called a sirocco.

- b. James 1:11 uses “scorching wind” which is referring to the “east wind” or sirocco (from Arabic shark=“east) which raises the temperature 15-20 degrees in a few hours. This is the destructive wind of the wilderness referred to in Job 1:19; Jer. 4:11; 13:24
 - c. Israel is trying to control something that is:
 - i. Impossible to control
 - ii. Elusive
 - iii. Destructive
 - d. Israel is playing with fire and will get burned.
4. The rest of the verse explains, again, what is going to be their destruction:
- a. Their lack of integrity which leads to breaking covenants and lying
 - b. The fact they are trying to lie and deceive international powers greater than themselves: Assyria and Egypt.
 - c. This is almost the image of an adulterous wife (like Gomer; like Israel) trying to play both the wife and the adulterous.