

Amos 6:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But, behold, I will raise up against you a nation, O house of Israel, saith the LORD the God of hosts; and they shall afflict you from the entering in of Hemath unto the river of the wilderness.

Analysis

But, behold, I will raise up against you a nation, O house of Israel (כִּי הִנְנִי גוי, ki hin'ni meikim aleichem beit Yisrael goy)—God personally raises up (מְקִים, meikim) the enemy nation (גוי, goy). **Saith the LORD the God of hosts** confirms divine authority. **And they shall afflict you from the entering in of Hemath unto the river of the wilderness** (וְלָחֲצוּ אֶתְכֶם מִלְּבוֹא חֲמַת עַד-נַחַל v'lachatzu etchem mil'vo Chamat ad-nachal ha'aravah)—the enemy will oppress (לָחֲצוּ, lachatz) Israel throughout their entire territory, from northern border (Lebo-Hamath) to southern (the Arabah river/wadi).

This directly counters verse 13's boast about taking 'horns' by their own strength. The same territory they conquered will be reconquered—by a nation God Himself raises against them. Human military might collapses before divine judgment. Assyria fulfilled this prophecy, but ultimately God sovereignly controls all nations for His purposes (Isaiah 10:5-19).

Historical Context

Tiglath-Pileser III began Assyrian incursions in 734 BC, culminating in Samaria's fall in 722 BC. The Assyrians conquered exactly the territory Jeroboam II had

expanded—demonstrating that God giveth and God taketh away. Israel's boasted military victories became meaningless when God withdrew protection.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God's sovereignty over nations—raising up and bringing down—humble national pride?
2. What does it mean that God uses pagan nations as instruments of judgment against His own people?
3. How should Christians respond to national decline or military defeat—as random events or potential divine discipline?

הַעֲרָבָה:
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1 Kings 8:65 (References God): And at that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him, a great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days and seven days, even fourteen days.

2 Kings 14:25 (References God): He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gath-hepher.