

Hosea 5:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound:
therefore I will pour out my wrath upon them like water.

Analysis

Moved boundaries: 'The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound: therefore I will pour out my wrath upon them like water.' Removing boundary markers (הַסִּגְיָ גְבוּל, *hasigei ge'vul*) violated covenant law (Deuteronomy 19:14, 27:17, Proverbs 22:28, 23:10)—stealing land by moving property stones. Judah's leaders, warned to avoid Israel's sin (4:15), instead imitated it. God's response: wrath poured out כַּמַּיִם (*kamayim*, like water)—abundant, overwhelming. This demonstrates that violating justice while maintaining religious appearance incurs divine judgment. The imagery of boundary removal suggests violating covenant limits God established. Only Christ perfectly upholds divine law (Matthew 5:17), securing righteousness for those who trust Him.

Historical Context

Land inheritance was sacred in Israel—each family's portion distributed by God (Numbers 26:52-56). Removing boundary markers enabled wealthy to seize poor farmers' ancestral land. Prophets repeatedly condemned this practice (Isaiah 5:8, Micah 2:1-2). Judah's leaders, despite warnings against imitating northern Israel, practiced identical injustice. The Syro-Ephraimite crisis (735-732 BC) likely occasioned this oracle: when Syria and Israel threatened Judah, Ahaz appealed to Assyria rather than trusting God. This violated spiritual 'boundaries' God had set. Judah's subsequent vassalage to Assyria brought divine wrath through later Babylonian conquest (586 BC). This demonstrates that presuming on warnings given to others while repeating their errors ensures identical judgment.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does violating God-established boundaries in pursuit of personal gain provoke divine judgment?
2. What does Judah's failure despite clear warnings about Israel teach about human tendency toward self-deception?

Interlinear Text

הָיוּ H1961	שָׂרֵי י H8269	יְהוּדָה H3063	כַּמְסִיגִי י H5253	גֹּב וְל H1366	עָלֶיהָ מ H5921
The princes	of Judah	were like them that remove	the bound		
אֲשַׁפּוּ וְ H8210	כַּמֵּי יָם H4325	עֲבָרָתִי: H5678			
therefore I will pour out	upon them like water	my wrath			

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 19:14 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not remove thy neighbour's landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the LORD thy God giveth thee to possess it.

Psalms 32:6 (Parallel theme): For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

Deuteronomy 27:17 (Parallel theme): Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour's landmark. And all the people shall say, Amen.

