

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 (הַסִּגְעִים גָּבוֹל, hasigei gevul) 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 קָמָעִים (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

בְּנֵי	שָׁרֵךְ	יְהוּדָה	כְּמַפְסִיגִים	עַלְיָם	גַּבְעָל
H1961	The princes	of Judah	were like them that remove	the bound	H5921
H8269		H3063	H5253	H1366	
וְאַשְׁפֵּן	כַּפֵּן	עַבְרָתִיִּם			
therefore I will pour out	upon them like water	my wrath			
H8210	H4325	H5678			

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.

