

Hosea 5:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Blow ye the cornet in Gibeah, and the trumpet in Ramah: cry aloud at Beth-aven, after thee, O Benjamin.

Analysis

Alarm of judgment: 'Blow ye the cornet in Gibeah, and the trumpet in Ramah: cry aloud at Beth-aven, after thee, O Benjamin.' The שׁוֹפָר (shofar, ram's horn) at Gibeah and חֲצֹצְרָה (chatsotsrah, silver trumpet) at Ramah signal military alarm—enemy approaching. These towns in Benjamin territory (northern border of Judah) mark invasion route from north. 'After thee, O Benjamin' means 'behind you!'—enemy already past. The ironic call to 'cry aloud at Beth-aven' (scornful name for Bethel, 4:15) warns the very shrine of idolatry. This prophesies Assyrian invasion sweeping south. The alarm call echoes throughout prophetic literature: Joel 2:1, Jeremiah 4:5, Ezekiel 33:1-6. Only Christ, our watchman, gives timely warning of coming judgment (Ezekiel 33:7-9, Hebrews 12:25-29).

Historical Context

Gibeah (Saul's hometown) and Ramah (Samuel's residence) were significant historical sites in Benjamin. Their mention signals invasion threatening even Judah's border. Historically, Tiglath-Pileser III's campaign (734-732 BC) swept through northern Israel, and later Sennacherib threatened Judah (701 BC). The prophetic alarm warns both kingdoms. Archaeological evidence confirms destruction layers at multiple northern Israelite sites from this period. The shofar served both religious (festivals, worship) and military (warning) purposes. Its use here is military: sounding alarm before invading army. This demonstrates that ignoring prophetic warnings results in literal military catastrophe—spiritual unfaithfulness produces historical consequences.

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 should Christians function as 'watchmen' giving warning of spiritual danger and coming judgment?
2. What does the image of enemy 'after thee' (already past) teach about the urgency of heeding divine warnings before too late?

Interlinear Text

מִקְעֵד	שׁוֹפֵר	בְּגִבְעָה	חַצְאֵב	בְּרִמָּה	בָּרֵךְ יְהוָה
Blow	ye the cornet	in Gibeah	and the trumpet	in Ramah	cry aloud
H8628	H7782	H1390	H2689	H7414	H7321
אַיִל	אַחֲרֵךְ	בְּנֵי־בְּנִימִין:			
at Bethaven	after	thee O Benjamin			
H1007	H310	H1144			

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 4:15 (Parallel theme): Though thou, Israel, play the harlot, yet let not Judah offend; and come not ye unto Gilgal, neither go ye up to Beth-aven, nor swear, The LORD liveth.

Hosea 9:9 (Parallel theme): They have deeply corrupted themselves, as in the days of Gibeah: therefore he will remember their iniquity, he will visit their sins.

Jeremiah 4:5 (Parallel theme): Declare ye in Judah, and publish in Jerusalem; and say, Blow ye the trumpet in the land: cry, gather together, and say, Assemble yourselves, and let us go into the defenced cities.

Joel 2:1 (Parallel theme): Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

1 Samuel 15:34 (Parallel theme): Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.

Isaiah 10:29 (Parallel theme): They are gone over the passage: they have taken up their lodging at Geba; Ramah is afraid; Gibeah of Saul is fled.

Hosea 8:1 (Parallel theme): Set the trumpet to thy mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law.

Judges 5:14 (Parallel theme): Out of Ephraim was there a root of them against Amalek; after thee, Benjamin, among thy people; out of Machir came down governors, and out of Zebulun they that handle the pen of the writer.