

Hosea 6:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth.

Analysis

Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth.' God's word through prophets functions as tool - 'hewing' (shaping through judgment) and 'slaying' (bringing death to rebellion). 'Words of my mouth' are powerful, accomplishing divine purposes (Isaiah 55:11). 'Thy judgments as light' means God's verdicts illuminate truth, exposing sin. Hebrews 4:12 declares God's word 'sharper than any two-edged sword,' dividing soul and spirit. Prophetic word both judges unrepentant and refines repentant. Christ is ultimate Word (John 1:1), bringing both judgment and life.

Historical Context

Prophets like Elijah, Elisha, Amos, and Hosea proclaimed God's word, confronting kings and people. Their words brought both literal judgment (Elijah calling drought, 1 Kings 17:1) and spiritual judgment (exposing sin). That God 'slays' by words means prophetic denunciation executed judgment even before physical consequences arrived. New Testament similarly describes the word as sword (Ephesians 6:17, Revelation 1:16). Historical fulfillment came through Assyrian conquest, but prophetic word had already pronounced sentence. God's word always accomplishes its purpose, whether salvation or judgment.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do I receive God's word - allowing it to 'hew' and refine me rather than resisting its corrective work?
2. What does prophetic word functioning as judgment teach about Scripture's authority and power in my life?

Interlinear Text

עָלָה כִּי	חָצַק בְּתִי	בְּבִיאָה יְמָנָה	פְּרִגְתָּה יְמָנָה
H5921 H3651	Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets	H2672	H5030 I have slain
			H2026
בְּאָמְרֵי	וְמִשְׁפָּט יְמָנָה	אֵרֶץ	אֵצָא:
them by the words	of my mouth	and thy judgments	are as the light
H561	H6310	H4941	H216 that goeth forth
			H3318

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 23:29 (Word): Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

Jeremiah 1:10 (Parallel theme): See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

Jeremiah 5:14 (Word): Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.

Hebrews 4:12 (Word): For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Romans 2:5 (Judgment): But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasures up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

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