

Hosea 8:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Alarm sounded: '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.' The command: שׁׁופֶר אֶל-חִקְקָה (shofar el-chikkekha, trumpet to your mouth/palate)—urgent alarm. Enemy comes like נֵשֶׁר (nesher, eagle/vulture) against YHWH's house (בֵּית יְהוָה, beit YHWH—temple/land/people). Why? Covenant transgression עַבְרָה בְּרִיתִי (avar beriti) and law trespass פְּשָׁעָו תֹּעֲנָתִי (pashe'u torati). The eagle imagery suggests swift, predatory attack from above. This demonstrates that covenant violation produces certain judgment. Christ fulfills covenant perfectly (Matthew 5:17), securing eternal security for believers (Hebrews 7:22).

Historical Context

The shofar/trumpet served as battle alarm throughout Israel's history (Judges 3:27, 6:34, Jeremiah 4:5, Joel 2:1). The 'eagle' is Assyria swooping down on northern Israel. The 'house of the LORD' primarily means land/people (no legitimate temple existed in north after division). The specific charges—broken covenant (Sinai), violated law (Torah)—provide legal basis for judgment. Archaeological evidence confirms swift Assyrian military campaigns matching 'eagle' imagery. Historically, once Assyria mobilized against rebellious vassals, conquest came swiftly and devastatingly. This demonstrates that covenant, while providing blessing when kept, demands judgment when broken—treaty loyalty works both directions.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the 'trumpet to mouth' image emphasize urgency in warning of judgment, and what responsibility do Christians have to sound similar alarms?
2. What does the certainty of judgment for covenant violation teach about God's character—both His patience and His justice?

Interlinear Text

אֶל	חֲקָב	שָׁפֵךְ	כִּי	שָׁרֵךְ	עַל
H413	to thy mouth	Set the trumpet	He shall come as an eagle		H5921
	H2441	H7782		H5404	
בְּיַת	בְּיַת	עַבְרֵי	בְּרִית		
בְּיַת	בְּיַת	בְּיַת	בְּרִית		
against the house	of the LORD	because they have transgressed	my covenant		
H1004	H3068	H3282	H5674		H1285
עַל	תֹּרְכָת	פְּשֻׁעָה			
H5921	against my law	and trespassed			
	H8451	H6586			

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 6:7 (Covenant): But they like men have transgressed the covenant: there have they dealt treacherously against me.

Deuteronomy 28:49 (References Lord): The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

Hosea 5:8 (Parallel theme): Blow ye the cornet in Gibeah, and the trumpet in Ramah: cry aloud at Beth-aven, after thee, O Benjamin.

Jeremiah 4:13 (Parallel theme): Behold, he shall come up as clouds, and his chariots shall be as a whirlwind: his horses are swifter than eagles. Woe unto us! for we are spoiled.

Habakkuk 1:8 (Parallel theme): Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org