

# 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: שׁוֹפָר אֶל־חִכְךָ (shofar el-chikkekha, trumpet to your mouth/palate)—urgent alarm. Enemy comes like נֶשֶׁר (nesher, eagle/vulture) against YHWH's house (בֵּית יְהוָה, beit YHWH—temple/land/people). Why? Covenant transgression (עָבַר בְּרִיתִי, avar beriti) and law trespass (פָּשְׁעוּ תוֹרָתִי, 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

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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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

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אֶל H413	חֶכְמָךְ H2441	שֹׁפָר H7782	בֶּן נָשָׁר H5404	עַל H5921
to thy mouth	Set the trumpet	He shall come as an eagle		
בֵּית יְהוָה H1004	לְעַן H3282	עָבְרוּ H5674	בְּרִיתִי H1285	
against the house	of the LORD	because they have transgressed	my covenant	
וְעַל H5921	תּוֹכַתִּי H8451	פָּשְׁעוּ H6586		
against my law	and trespassed			

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.