

Isaiah 10:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

Analysis

God commissions Assyria against 'an hypocritical nation' (Israel/Judah)—people who maintain religious forms but lack genuine faith. The three imperatives—'take the spoil,' 'take the prey,' 'tread them down'—demonstrate God's sovereign command over Assyria's actions. The phrase 'tread them down like the mire of the streets' emphasizes complete humiliation. God uses Assyria to punish covenant unfaithfulness. This shows that profession without possession, religion without reality, incurs severe judgment.

Historical Context

Despite maintaining temple worship, sacrifices, and religious festivals, Israel and Judah had abandoned genuine covenant faithfulness (Isaiah 1:10-17). Ritual continued while hearts were far from God—textbook hypocrisy. God commissioned Assyria to punish this empty religion. Sennacherib's invasion of Judah (701 BC) and Assyria's earlier conquest of Israel (722 BC) fulfilled this commission precisely.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between religious activity and genuine relationship with God?
2. How does hypocrisy—maintaining religious forms while rejecting God's heart—provoke divine judgment?
3. In what ways might our own religious practices be hypocritical rather than heartfelt?

Interlinear Text

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|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------|----------|
| בְּגוֹי | חִנֵּף | אֶשְׁלַח נֹו | וְעַל | עַם | |
| nation | him against an hypocritical | I will send | H5921 | and against the people | |
| H1471 | H2611 | H7971 | | H5971 | |
| עֲבַרְתִּי | אֶצֶוּ נֹו | לִשְׁלֹל | שָׁלַל | וְלָבֹז | בִּזְ |
| of my wrath | will I give him a charge | to take | the spoil | and to take | the prey |
| H5678 | H6680 | H7997 | H7998 | H962 | H957 |
| וּלְשִׁימָם | מִדְּמָם | כִּדְמָה | חוּצוֹת: | | |
| and to tread them down | H4823 | like the mire | of the streets | | |
| H7760 | | H2563 | H2351 | | |

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 9:17 (Parallel theme): Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one is an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Isaiah 19:17 (Parallel theme): And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, every one that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the LORD of hosts, which he hath determined against it.

Jeremiah 25:9 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.

Jeremiah 34:22 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will command, saith the LORD, and cause them to return to this city; and they shall fight against it, and take it, and burn it with fire: and I will make the cities of Judah a desolation without an inhabitant.

Zechariah 10:5 (Parallel theme): And they shall be as mighty men, which tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle: and they shall fight, because the LORD is with them, and the riders on horses shall be confounded.