

Isaiah 58:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Analysis

The command 'Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet' calls for bold, uncompromising proclamation of sin. The dual address 'shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins' indicates that covenant community needs regular confrontation with their rebellion. This establishes that faithful preaching includes exposing sin, not just positive encouragement. God's people need prophetic rebuke, not therapeutic affirmation.

Historical Context

Isaiah's ministry included both comfort (ch. 40) and confrontation (ch. 58). The people maintained religious ritual (fasting, v. 3) while tolerating injustice, requiring prophetic exposure. True pastoral care includes 'crying aloud' against sin, as Jesus confronted Pharisees and apostles rebuked churches.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How comfortable are you with preachers who 'cry aloud' exposing sin versus those who only encourage?
2. What sins in your life need prophetic 'trumpet blast' rather than gentle suggestion?

Interlinear Text

וְיֹאמֶר	קֹל	בְּ	בָּבּוֹם	בְּבָבּוֹם	וְיֹאמֶר
Cry	aloud	H408	spare	like a trumpet	not lift
H7121	H1627		H2820	H7782	H7311
לְעַמִּי	פְּשֻׁעָם	וְלֹבֶבֶת	בְּבָבּוֹם	מִשְׁעָן	בְּבָבּוֹם
my people	their transgression	and the house	of Jacob	their sins	
H5971	H6588	H1004	H3290	H2403	

Additional Cross-References

Titus 2:15 (Parallel theme): These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

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.

Ezekiel 20:4 (Parallel theme): Wilt thou judge them, son of man, wilt thou judge them? cause them to know the abominations of their fathers:

Isaiah 40:6 (Parallel theme): The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:

Isaiah 56:10 (Parallel theme): His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

Ezekiel 22:2 (Parallel theme): Now, thou son of man, wilt thou judge, wilt thou judge the bloody city? yea, thou shalt shew her all her abominations.

Revelation 1:10 (Parallel theme): I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

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