

Amos 3:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hear ye, and testify in the house of Jacob, saith the Lord GOD,
the God of hosts,

Analysis

Hear ye, and testify in the house of Jacob (שְׁמָעוּ וְהָעִידוּ בְּבֵית יַעֲקֹב, shim'u v'ha'idu b'veit ya'akov)—The Hebrew הָעִידוּ (ha'idu, 'testify, bear witness') is legal language; God calls witnesses against His people. The use of 'Jacob' rather than 'Israel' may emphasize their unchanged carnal nature—still deceivers like their ancestor. **Saith the Lord GOD, the God of hosts** (נֹאמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַצְבָּאוֹת, ne'um Adonai YHWH Elohei hatzva'ot)—triple divine titles underscore absolute authority.

This courtroom scene portrays God prosecuting His covenant lawsuit (riv) against Israel. The same God who delivered them now testifies against them—a tragic reversal. Yet even in judgment, God calls witnesses, maintaining judicial righteousness rather than acting as arbitrary tyrant.

Historical Context

The covenant lawsuit (prophetic riv) was a standard Ancient Near Eastern legal form. God isn't violating His covenant but enforcing it through its curse provisions (Deuteronomy 28-29). This public witness ensures Israel cannot claim ignorance or injustice when judgment falls.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's use of legal process even in judgment display His righteousness and patience?
2. What does it mean that God testifies against His own people—those who bear His name?
3. How should churches today respond when God's Word testifies against their practices?

Interlinear Text

וּשְׁמַע	וְהָעֵידוּ	בְּיֵת	יַעֲקֹב	נֹאֵם	אֲדֹנָי	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי
Hear	ye and testify	in the house	of Jacob	saith	the Lord	GOD	the God
H8085	H5749	H1004	H3290	H5002	H136	H3069	H430

הַצִּבְאוֹת:
of hosts
H6635