

# 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** (שׁמְעוּ וְעִידוּ בְּבֵית יַעֲקֹב) shim'u v'ha'idu b'veit ya'akov)—The Hebrew קְעִידָה (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** (נָאָם אֱלֹהִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהִי הַצּוֹבָאֹת) 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

## Study Questions

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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

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אֱלֹהִים יְהוָה הָאָדָם אֲדֹנָיו יְהוָה שְׁמַע וְ  
Hear ye and testify in the house of Jacob saith the Lord GOD the God

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הַאֲבָאֹת:

of hosts

H6635