

Isaiah 3:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD standeth up to plead, and standeth to judge the people.

Analysis

The courtroom imagery—'the LORD standeth up to plead, and standeth to judge'—depicts God as both prosecutor and judge. The dual role emphasizes that divine justice is comprehensive: God both presents the case against sin and renders verdict. This anticipates the final judgment where Christ judges by the Father's authority (John 5:22, 27). The 'people' (plural 'ammim') facing judgment may indicate nations generally or covenant people specifically, showing none escape divine scrutiny.

Historical Context

Prophetic lawsuit (Hebrew 'rib') was a common literary form where God indicts covenant breakers. This formula appears throughout prophets (Hosea 4:1; Micah 6:2), establishing divine right to judge.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God as both prosecutor and judge shape our understanding of accountability?
2. What comfort or warning does Christ's role as judge provide for believers?

Interlinear Text

נִצָּח	לִבִּי	יְהוָה	וְעָמְדָה	לִדְיֹן	עַמִּים:
standeth up	to plead	The LORD	and standeth	to judge	the people
H5324	H7378	H3068	H5975	H1777	H5971

Additional Cross-References

Micah 6:2 (References Lord): Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD'S controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel.