

Isaiah 5:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge,
I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard.

Analysis

God calls the inhabitants of Jerusalem to judge between Him and His vineyard, making them witnesses in His case against Israel. The rhetorical question format anticipates their agreement with the judgment that follows. By inviting human judgment, God demonstrates the reasonableness of His case—even His rebellious people must acknowledge His justice.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern legal procedure involved witnesses. Isaiah frames God's complaint as a legal case where the defendants themselves must acknowledge the legitimacy of the charges.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. If God asked you to judge between Him and His church today, what verdict would be appropriate?

2. How does God's transparency in explaining His actions demonstrate His justice?

Interlinear Text

בְּ אֶלְעָתָה	וַיֵּשׁ בָּיִת יְהוּדָה	וְרֹשֶׁלֶם	וְאֶלְעָתָה	שִׁפְטוֹר	יְהוּדָה	וְאֶלְעָתָה
H6258	And now O inhabitants	of Jerusalem	and men	of Judah	judge	H4994
	H3427	H3389	H376	H3063	H8199	

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