

Micah 6:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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. The repetition "hear ye" emphasizes urgency. "Mountains" and "strong foundations" represent creation's most stable elements. "Controversy" establishes the judicial nature of God's address.

"For the LORD hath a controversy with his people" identifies plaintiff (Yahweh) and defendant (His people). The possessive "his people" intensifies tragedy—these aren't random nations but His chosen, redeemed community. "He will plead" means to present a legal case. God doesn't merely pronounce sentence but reasons with Israel, presenting evidence of their guilt and His righteousness.

This establishes courtroom dynamics: God as prosecutor presents His case before cosmic witnesses against defendants. The legal language emphasizes Israel's rational culpability—they aren't ignorant but willfully rebellious. The lawsuit format demonstrates God's justice—He doesn't capriciously destroy but legally prosecutes based on evidence.

Historical Context

The covenant between Yahweh and Israel contained blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience (Deuteronomy 28). By Micah's time, rebellion was

entrenched—particularly under wicked King Ahaz. The phrase "he will plead" suggests God's patience. Rather than immediately executing judgment, He presents His case, giving opportunity for repentance. This recalls dealings with Cain (Genesis 4:6-7) and Israel in the wilderness (Numbers 14:11-20). Divine patience aims at repentance (2 Peter 3:9), yet persistence in rebellion brings judgment.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does God's willingness to "plead" reveal about His character?
2. How does the covenant lawsuit challenge modern assumptions about judgment?
3. What evidence would witnesses bring against modern Christians?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁמַע	הָרִים	אֶת	רִיב	לַיהוָה	וְהָאֲתָנִים
Hear	ye O mountains	H853	controversy	for the LORD	and ye strong
H8085	H2022		H7379	H3068	H386
מִסְדֵּי	אֶרֶץ	כִּי	רִיב	לַיהוָה	עַם
foundations	of the earth	H3588	controversy	for the LORD	H5973
H4146	H776		H7379	H3068	
וְעַם	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וְהָאֲתָנִים			
H5973	with Israel	and he will plead			
	H3478	H3198			

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 4:1 (References Lord): Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

Hosea 12:2 (References Lord): The LORD hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him.

Isaiah 1:18 (References Lord): Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Psalms 104:5 (Parallel theme): Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.

Deuteronomy 32:22 (Parallel theme): For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

2 Samuel 22:16 (References Lord): And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were discovered, at the rebuking of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils.