**Micah 6:1-5 Hear now what the Lord says: “Arise, plead your case before the mountains, And let the hills hear your voice. 2Hear, O you mountains, the Lord’s complaint, And you strong foundations of the earth; For the Lord has a complaint against His people, And He will contend with Israel. 3“O My people, what have I done to you? And how have I wearied you? Testify against Me. 4For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of bondage; And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. 5O My people, remember now What Balak king of Moab counseled, And what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, From Acacia Grove to Gilgal, That you may know the righteousness of the Lord.”**

We’re in the book of Micah tonight. The book is dated between 750 and 700 BC, during the time leading up to the Assyrians assault of Israel. The name Micah means, “Who is like Yahweh?” Who indeed? No one. God is the first and the last, Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End. He is above all, through all, and in all.

In Micah 1:6 we read “Therefore I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the field, Places for planting a vineyard; I will pour down her stones into the valley, And I will uncover her foundations”. God is going to destroy Samaria and we know through hindsight that the Assyrians overran Samaria. It’s the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. God is destroying it because of it has deserted the covenant of God. Notice that God has not deserted Israel. It is Israel that has turned it’s back on God.

God’s people have always been people of covenant. In any covenant, there are promises made and commitments to be kept on both sides. We today are part of the covenant of Jesus. When we partake of the Lord’s Supper, we are remembering the covenant of His blood and our commitment to God. In Matthew 26:28 Jesus says - For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

In Exodus 19:5-6, God tells Moses to say to the people, “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.” There are promises made, requirements to be fulfilled, and commitments to keep. Now listen to the response of the people in Exodus 19:8, “Then all the people answered together and said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.” So Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord.” Notice who answered – all the people. Notice how they answered – together, in unison, with one voice. They say All this we will do… not some, not maybe. God asked the people and they agreed.

When we make a commitment to God through Jesus Christ, we agree to keep God’s commandments. 1 John 5:2-3 tells us that By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.” Not some of His commandments, but all. It is part of our covenant.

The verses we’re examining tonight are known to some as the Covenant Lawsuit. We find similar language in Amos, Hosea, Habakkuk, Isaiah, Zephaniah, and Nahum. God has been patient, long-suffering, and forgiving. He has withheld His wrath not because of who Israel is, but because of who He is. He’s not been blind to the sin of the nation and has sent prophet after prophet with message after message to cry out for repentance and get the nation to turn back and renew the covenant, but they wouldn’t hear. Now, the time has come when God accuses the Northern Kingdom of breaking the covenant – they’ve pursued other gods, worshipped idols, treated the weak among them shamefully… they lack honesty and integrity… justice is not to be found in Israel and God says, “Enough.” They’ve broken the covenant, not once, but over and over, and ignored God and sinned willfully before Him.

I don’t guess we have to wonder why God has brought the lawsuit… breach of contract! God is saying, “I delivered and you failed to pay. I kept my promises and you failed to keep your commitment.” It’s interesting to think of this in terms of a lawsuit. If we make a contract promise and fail to deliver, we might find ourselves in legal proceedings… no shock there. Why do we not consider our promises and commitments to God in the same way?

Verse 1 & 2 - **Hear now what the Lord says: “Arise, plead your case before the mountains, And let the hills hear your voice.Hear, O you mountains, the Lord’s complaint, And you strong foundations of the earth; For the Lord has a complaint against His people, And He will contend with Israel.** We find out who the judge and jury is – mountains, hills, strong foundations of earth… God is going to lay out His case to these. Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmamentshows His handiwork, but men are wicked.

Verse 3 **3“O My people, what have I done to you? And how have I wearied you? Testify against Me”.** God asks – what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Malachi 2:17 You have wearied the Lord with your words; Yet you say, “In what way have we wearied Him?” In that you say, “Everyone who does evil *Is* good in the sight of the Lord, And He delights in them,” Or, “Where *is* the God of justice?” God is wearied with our murmuring.

I believe that God asks the same of us today. How has He wearied us? Has He wearied us by giving clear commandments? Is it the blessings both day and night we grow tired of? Have we been let down by God and disappointed? Of course not. We murmur because we don’t get our way… it’s not like we thought it should be. God asks – how has He wearied us? When we murmur, complain, wring our hands and fail to trust, God has not wearied us… we have wearied ourselves… and we weary God.

God is inviting us to testify against Him… can we do it? Job 38:1-3, “Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said, “Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you and you shall answer Me.” I cannot think of a scarier situation than when the God of the universe finally gets fed up with my whining and says – now I’ll ask you a few questions. There is only one place in the Bible that God says we should test Him – Malachi 3:10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you *such* blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.” We’re often ready to question God in the things that we don’t like… but not many test God where He says to test Him and that’s in trusting Him with our tithes.

 Verse 4 and 5**For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of bondage; And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. 5O My people, remember now What Balak king of Moab counseled, And what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, From Acacia Grove to Gilgal, That you may know the righteousness of the Lord.”** God offers a reminder here of two ways that He delivered on His promises. He’s not breached the contract… Israel has.

 When God punishes this nation, it will be we who have breached the contract. He’ll be able to give us example after example of how He blessed this nation and kept His covenant. It will be we who failed Him. We have no excuse to be weary of God… He has all reason to be weary of us. His solution today is the same as He called Israel to do… repent, stop our murmuring, and return to Him… Keep His commandments… hide His Word in our hearts… Jesus covenant is clear. Are we honoring the commitment we made or are we murmuring and complaining? May God never grow weary of what He sees in our lives.