

Micah 6:1-8ⁱⁱ

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear our voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

ⁱⁱ **About the First Reading: Micah 6:1-8**

Micah prophesied about the same time as Isaiah, at the end of the eighth century BC. He focused particularly upon the social injustices of a period turbulent with political upheaval. The setting of today's reading is that of a law court; the Lord has a case to put against the people. God calls the created world as witness to God's steadfast adherence to the covenant bond. The reply expresses the criticism of the sacrificial system made by the eighth-century prophets. Sacrifice should be the external sign of an internal desire for obedience and self-offering.