

Hear the Word of the Lord!

Ponder: Are you listening?

Scripture: "Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel" (Jer. 2:4, NKJV).

This is the first of fourteen times Jeremiah wrote, "Hear the word of the Lord." Several other Old Testament books bring the total to two dozen. times It's as though God was using a megaphone to shout, "Listen up, people!"

More often than not, this exhortation involved a prophecy of warning and doom. Jeremiah's people, like their unfaithful ancestors, desperately needed to listen to God's word and obey it. Their priests and Levites had failed to teach them, and their prophets prophesied by Baal. Idolatry and immorality ruled the day. If Judah was to avoid disaster, they would have to turn 180 degrees without delay!

If hearing the Lord's word was important in the Mosaic age, how much more so in the Messianic era? Jesus said those who hear His sayings and do them are like a wise man who built his house on a solid rock foundation (Matt. 7:24). Unfortunately, not everyone chooses that wise course. Jesus asked His critics, "Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word" (Jn. 8:42). It wasn't that God had flipped a switch in their hearts to make them incapable of faith and obedience. Rather, their own preconceived notions, traditions, and stubbornness made them unable.

Some, however, will listen, believe, and obey. Jesus said those who "hear the word of God and do it" are His spiritual family (Lk. 8:21). "He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life" (Jn. 5:24). May each of us be counted among that number!

Hymn: "Trust and Obey"

Prayer: Father above, we gladly acknowledge that Your word is truth. May we believe that word in our hearts and obey it in love. In Jesus' name, Amen.