

"Hear The Word Of The Lord"

Jer 22:29

Jeremiah 22:29 - "O land, land, land, Hear the word of the LORD!"

Introduction:

- A. Often, when talking to someone, we find the person seemingly not paying attention and may say something along the lines of, "Are you listening?"
- B. In the O.T. There is a similar phrase, "Hear the word of the Lord". This term is used over 36 times in the Old Testament and appears in the Book of Jeremiah on 15 different occasions. The sinful condition of the people in the days of Jeremiah proves the necessity of the repetition (Jer. 5:31; 6:13; 23:14; 2 Chron. 36:5-11; Jer 2:13, 27-28; 5:7-8; 8:5; 8:6; 6:16).
- C. In Jer. 22:24-30, Jeremiah sounds the death knell of Judah. The basic reason for this condemnation was because they "refused to hear God's Word" (Jer 13:10). Today destruction also awaits those who refuse to "Hear God's Word" (Acts 3:22-23; 2 Thess 1:7-8).
- D. As in the days of Jeremiah there are many voices that are clamoring to be heard today. In Jeremiah's day, you had false prophets, priests, idolatry, and wicked kings. Today you have various religious organizations, liberalism, sensualism and many, many more.
- E. Yet God's command is still the same as it was in that time; "HEAR MY VOICE AND MY WORD".

I. The Term "Hear" Has Many Different Uses

A. Sometimes Hear means...

- 1. The audition of inarticulate sounds (hear without seeing) - Acts 9:7; Jn 12:27-28

Acts 9:7 - The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

John 12:27-28 - "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose, I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."

- 2. To perceive by the ear what is announced in one's presence - Acts 22:9

Acts 22:9 - "And those who were with me saw the light, to be sure, but did not understand the voice of the One who was speaking to me.

- 3. To get by hearing, to learn (From the mouth of a teacher or narrator) - Matt 10:27

Matthew 10:27 - "What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops.

- 4. To find out, to learn by the hearing of others - Matt. 11:2

Matthew 11:2 - Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by his disciples

- 5. To listen to, hear attentively - Lk 19:47-48

Luke 19:47-48 - And He was teaching daily in the temple; but the chief priests and the scribes and the leading men among the people were trying to destroy Him, 48 and they could not find anything that they might do, for all the people were hanging on to every word He said.

- 6. To comprehend, to understand - Mark 4:33

Mark 4:33 - With many such parables He was speaking the word to them, so far as they were able to hear it;

- 7. To yield to, to hear and obey, to heed one - Acts 3:22-23

Acts 3:22-23 - "Moses said, THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED to everything He says to you. And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'

- B. However, it is not my intention to speak concerning all the different types of "Hear but rather this lesson is concerned with Hearing that is attentive, understood and obeyed.

II. *What is It That We Are To Hear... "THE WORD OF THE LORD"*

- A. Jeremiah had a great task just as we also have today - Jer 23:16-17, 21, 25-28

Jeremiah 23:16-17 - Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you. They are leading you into futility; They speak a vision of their own imagination, Not from the mouth of the LORD. They keep saying to those who despise Me, 'The LORD has said, "You will have peace"; And as for everyone who walks in the stubbornness of his own heart, They say, 'Calamity will not come upon you.'

Jeremiah 23:21 - "I did not send these prophets, But they ran. I did not speak to them, But they prophesied.

Jeremiah 23:25-28 - "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy falsely in My name, saying, 'I had a dream, I had a dream!' How long? Is there anything in the hearts of the prophets who prophesy falsehood, even these prophets of the deception of their own heart, who intend to make My people forget My name by their dreams which they relate to one another, just as their fathers forgot My name because of Baal? The prophet who has a dream may relate his dream, but let him who has My word speak My word in truth. What does straw have in common with grain?" declares the LORD.

- B. The problem did not cease with Jeremiah, but continued down through the ages

1. Christ dealt with this problem - Matt 7:15; Mk 7:5-13

Matthew 7:15 - "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

Mark 7:5-13 - The Pharisees and the scribes *asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?" And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.' Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men." He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. "For Moses said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER'; and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH'; but you say, 'If a man says to his father or his mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given to God),' you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother; thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that."

2. The Apostles had the problem - Col 2:8; Tit. 1:13-14; 2 Tim 2:17-18

Colossians 2:8 - See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

Titus 1:13-14 - This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith, not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.

2 Timothy 2:17-18 - and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some.

3. Their instruction to us today is to test and try the teachers - 1 Jn 4:1; Rev 2:2

1 John 4:1 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Revelation 2:2 - I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;

4. We face this very same task today in our generation

C. Why is there such a great folly of not yielding to the Word of the Lord?

1. God cannot lie - Heb 6:18 - Man can and does lie

Hebrews 6:18 - so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.

2. God can save - 1 Tim 4:10 - Man cannot

1 Timothy 4:10 - For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.

3. God can destroy in Hell - Matt. 10:28 - Man cannot

Matthew 10:28 - "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

D. Therefore, it is essential that we heed the Word of the Lord.

III. *What Are Some Hindrances To Hearing The Word?*

A. Though the Word of the Lord is widely preached, taught, and published, many do not obey and yield to it - Rom 10:16-18

Romans 10:16-18 - However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have; "THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD."

B. What are the reasons behind this fact?

1. Ignorance

a. The Jews failed to hear out of ignorance - Rom 10:1-3; Acts 3:14-17

Romans 10:1-3 - Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

Acts 3:14-17 - "But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, but put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses. And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all. And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also.

1) Yet it can be clearly seen that their ignorance was not God's fault - Rom 3:1-2; 10:4; Acts 10:43

Romans 3:1-2 - Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.

Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Acts 10:43 - "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

2) Yet with all this they ignorantly rejected the Christ - Acts 13:27-30

Acts 13:27-30 - "For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning Him. And though they found no ground for putting Him to death, they asked Pilate that He be executed. When they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. But God raised Him from the dead;

b. Man's ignorance today is not God's fault - Acts 8:26-29; Rom 15:19-21; Col 1:23; Jude 3

Acts 8:26-29 - But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.) So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot."

Romans 15:19-21 - in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation; but as it is written, "THEY WHO HAD NO NEWS OF HIM SHALL SEE, AND THEY WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND."

Colossians 1:23 - if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

Jude 3 - Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

2. To Prove Or Protect A Theory

a. Some fail to hear God's Word because they have a theory to prove

1) Unless one loves the truth, he can and will be deceived - 2 Thess. 2:10-12

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 - and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

2) We must have a hunger and thirst after righteousness - Matt 5:6

Matthew 5:6 - "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

3. Because Of Prejudice

a. Religious prejudice closes many ears to the Word of God

b. Many times, we resemble the Biblical examples of prejudice

1) Naaman was prejudice - 2 Kings 5:9-11

2 Kings 5:9-11 - So Naaman came with his horses and his chariots and stood at the doorway of the house of Elisha. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean." But Naaman was furious and went away and said, "Behold, I thought, 'He will surely

come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.'

2) The Jews to whom Stephen spoke were prejudice - Acts 7:54-58

Acts 7:54-58 - Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him. But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

3) The Jews who heard Paul in Jerusalem were prejudice - Acts 22:17-23

Acts 22:17-23 - "It happened when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I fell into a trance, and I saw Him saying to me, 'Make haste, and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about Me.' And I said, 'Lord, they themselves understand that in one synagogue after another I used to imprison and beat those who believed in You. 'And when the blood of Your witness Stephen was being shed, I also was standing by approving, and watching out for the coats of those who were slaying him.' "And He said to me, 'Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'" They listened to him up to this statement, and then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he should not be allowed to live!" And as they were crying out and throwing off their cloaks and tossing dust into the air,

4. Thinking There Is Sufficient Time To Change

a. The Bible warns us about waiting till tomorrow - Prov 27:1; Jas 4:13-14

Proverbs 27:1 - Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

James 4:13-14 - Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

b. Would you hear God's word if death was one hour away?

c. The question is how do you know that this is not the case?

B. Those who have removed these hindrances hear the word of the Lord

1. They hear

a) That responsible beings who have sinned are under condemnation unless they hear and obey God's Word - Rom 8:1-4; 2 Thess 1:7-8

Romans 8:1-4 - Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 - and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

b) Hear Christ's invitation, His plea for man to be saved - Matt 11:28-30

Matthew 11:28-30 - "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

c) Hear God's plan of Salvation - Mk 16:16; Acts 2:28; Rom 6:3-5

Mark 16:16 - "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

Acts 2:28 - 'YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.'

Romans 6:3-5 - Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,

d) Hear God's approved manner of Life - 1 Tim. 4:12, 16; Tit. 2:11-12

1 Timothy 4:12 - Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

1 Timothy 4:16 - Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

Titus 2:11-12 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

e) They hear the call to duty - Matt 9:37; Jn 4:35; 15:2, 8; 1 Cor. 15:58; Phil. 2:12

Matthew 9:37 - Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

John 4:35 - "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'?" Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.

John 15:2 - "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

John 15:8 - "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

1 Corinthians 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

Philippians 2:12 - So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

C. The promises to the faithful and the warnings to the disobedient - Rom 2:6-10; Rev 2:10

Romans 2:6-10 - who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Revelation 2:10 - Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Conclusion:

- A. The question that needs to ask today is, "Have I heeded the Word of the Lord?"
- B. Have I removed all the hindrances and sought out what I need to do to be in the chosen few?