

“WE WILL NOT LISTEN TO YOU!”

By Keith Greer

"As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the Lord, we will not listen to you!" {Jeremiah 44:16} Can you comprehend such an attitude towards a prophet of God, who spoke the words of the Lord?! How could His people turn a “deaf ear” to the divine instructions given to them by God’s prophet?

If we read through the history of the children of Israel, this was not a new attitude displayed towards Jeremiah. This attitude began after they crossed the Red Sea, and God saved them! “Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?' For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness." {Exodus 14:11,12} Who made the plea in Egypt for rescue from their slavery? Exodus 3:7-9. How short a memory they had developed!

One should take a look back, I think we can show that God "**listened to them**"! I wonder why?

In Exodus 16:2-3, they complained of hunger, God answered. " ... Behold I will rain bread of heaven for you ... " {Exodus 16:4} In Exodus 17:2-3, they complained for water, and again, God heard them. " ... And you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink ... "{Exodus 17:6}

In Numbers 11:5-6, they wanted meat to eat, and still again, God heard them. "...but for a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you ... {Numbers 11:20} God gave them quail to eat.

After the period of conquest, they possessed the land that God had promised, yet, because of disobedience; the enemies of the land begin to oppress them. "... they were greatly distressed." {Judges 2:15} Still, God heard their cries for mercy, "And when the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them." {Judges 2:18}

All God asked in return from them was to listen and obey His laws and commandments. (Deuteronomy 7:12-26) How long would God's patience and longsuffering last?

" ... Behold, I will surely bring calamity on them which they will not be able to escape; and though they cry out to Me, I will not listen to them." {Jeremiah 11:11} God's patience will have run out with them! One too many times that had put God to the test!

God's people first decided to "not hear God". Now, God has chosen "not to hear them!" Yet, remember who left who first! God has promised he will never leave us, “Let your conduct be without

covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." {Hebrews 13:5}.

Yet, when we turn a "deaf ear" to His word, by disobedience, we leave Him no choice! "For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life." {Galatians 6:8} One will always reap what they have sowed! Is He listening to you today? There is really a bigger question one needs to ask of himself – **ARE WE LISTENING TO HIM BY OBEYING HIS WORD** in our lives? Dear reader, are your ears open to His words? ***