

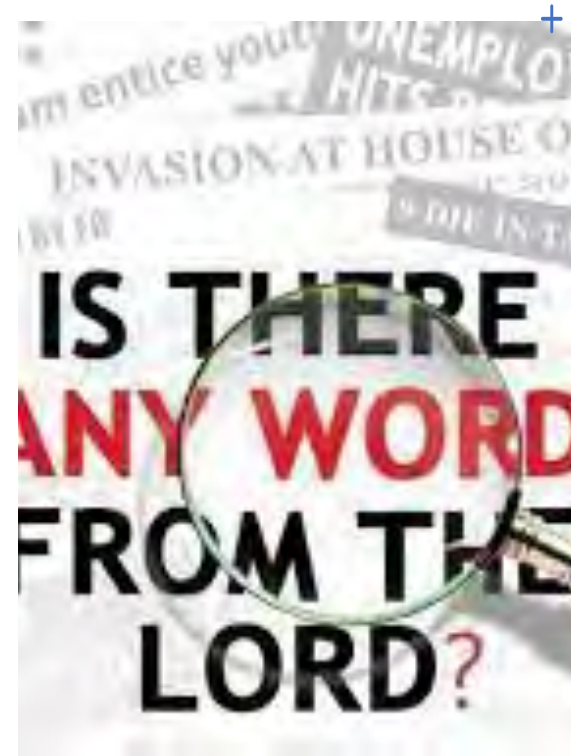


Is There Any Word From the Lord?

Jeremiah 37:16-21

Initially, I Thought This Question Was Asked by a Willing Servant of God

- But It Wasn't
- It Was Asked By a Child of God Who Had Already Received God's Word But Didn't Like What He'd Heard



There is a Sad Statement About Israel in 1 Samuel 3:1

“And the word of the Lord was rare (quite uncommon, rarely heard) in those days; there was no widespread revelation.”

Why Was That? After All God Had Done For Israel?

- He brought Israel out of Egypt after 400 years of slavery
- That had seen God work 10 miraculous plagues that reduced the mighty Egyptian nation to a wasteland
- God had opened up the Red Sea and they walked across on dry land. But after 200 years in the Promised Land, they had left God and reverted back to their idolatrous ways
- So now, they didn't want God's Word anymore! They were not listening to God's word through His prophet Jeremiah. Complacency had set in. The urgency had passed.

Look at the Text, Jeremiah 37:2, 6-8, 16-17

Vs 2 “Neither he (Zedekiah the King), nor his attendants, nor the people of the land paid any attention to the words the Lord had spoken through Jeremiah the prophet

Vs 6-8 Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet: “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of me ... the Babylonians will return and attack this city; they will capture it and burn it down.

Vs 16-17 Jeremiah was put in a vaulted cell in a dungeon (prison), where he remained a long time. Then Zedekiah sent for him and had him brought to the palace, where he asked him privately, “Is there any word from the Lord?” “Yes,” Jeremiah replied, “you will be delivered into the hands of the king of Babylon.”

Zedekiah Practiced “Selective Hearing!”

This Funny Story Explains “Selective Hearing”

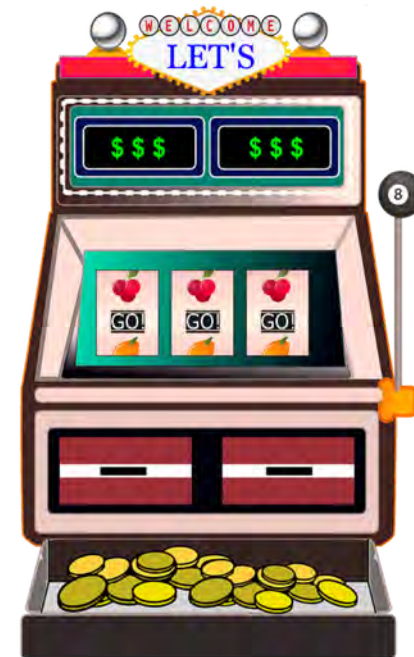
- A teacher asked her class what was their favorite animal.
- Billy raised his hand and said, “Fried Chicken!”
- The teacher said, “No, I asked what animal?”
- Billy again answered, “I said, Fried Chicken!”
- The teacher said, “Your answer offends me. I’m member of PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals). You, Billy, are going to the Principal’s Office right now!”
- After a while, Billy came back with a note to the teacher from the Principal that said, “Change the subject.” So, the teacher then asked, “Name your favorite American Hero.”
- Billy thought for a moment and replied, “Colonel Sanders!”

Do We Really Want a Word From the Lord When Our Lifestyle Contradicts His Word?

- **King Zedekiah acted like he wanted to hear God's message; but when it didn't suit him, he locked the messenger up in prison**
- **When God's message doesn't suit our lifestyle or habits, what do we do? (Close our Bibles, stop listening, stop worshipping) We continue our attitudes, drugs, alcohol**
- **Paul asked the Galatian Christians a question: "*Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?*" Galatians 4:16, Don't crucify the messenger!**
- **Listen to what the Israelites told Moses in Exodus 20:19 - "*Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.*" (we don't want to be that close to God) *God's too straight for us!***

Do We Want a Different Word Than God Has Already Given?

- Some people treat God like He's a slot machine in Las Vegas. They think that if they pull the lever again, they'll get a different answer
- Zedekiah was doing something dangerous. He was trying to get God's blessings while he remained in sin. Romans 6:1
- Judgement delayed is not sin that's overlooked or ignored by God. (Jer. 21:7; 32:4; 34:21 shows he'd been warned about himself)
- God gives us time to repent not to continue in sin; Romans 2:4



Knowing God's Word Implies the Obligation To Be Obedient To It

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. James 4:17

- If we know a habit that we like to do is wrong, it's a mighty "high-handed" sin to keep doing it! That's flagrant rebellion! (flaunting it in God's face). Read Jer. 39:5-7, to see the king's fate (lost his vision, kingdom)
- Once we know the truth, we must have the courage to act on what we know. Remember Elijah's challenge to God's people in 1 Kings 18:21 on Mount Carmel?

"How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word (they were convicted but not committed).

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

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Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

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Repent of Sins

Acts 2:38

Confess Christ to be God's Son

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38