

No. 26 “Jehovah Was Listening”

Note to the speaker:

Talk with video. Highlight the need for appointed men to exercise godly fear in their thoughts and speech by showing respect for those whom Jehovah is using to take the lead and by quickly obeying the direction received through God’s organization

JEHOVAH—A GOD WHO HEARS (3 min.)

We love Jehovah because he hears us [**Read Psalm 116:1, 2**]

We derive comfort, strength, and hope from knowing that Jehovah hears us

It is sobering to know that Jehovah hears us even when we are not speaking (Ps 19:14; 139:4)

What does God hear when he listens to us?

Do our speech and conduct indicate that we fear God and obey his commands? (Ec 12:13; Re 14:7)

Does our godly fear move us to be respectful to those taking the lead? (Eph 5:21; 1Th 5:12)

“JEHOVAH WAS LISTENING” (6 min.)

During their initial journey to the Promised Land, “Jehovah was listening” when Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses [**Read Numbers 12:1, 2**]

Perhaps familiarity, family connection, age, or their own personal abilities led Miriam and Aaron to criticize Moses (*w98 8/15 12-13 ¶13-14*)

Miriam and Aaron’s disrespectful words, though directed at Moses, showed a lack of godly fear and incurred God’s burning anger and discipline (Nu 12:8-10)

In the first century, the apostle John provided a loving warning to those who spoke out against those taking the lead in the congregation (3Jo 9-11)

Today, the faithful and discreet slave is lovingly reminding all appointed brothers of the need to display godly fear and respect for those taking the lead (Mt 25:40)

When we demonstrate respect and obedience toward those whom Jehovah uses in positions of responsibility, we show Jehovah that we fear him (Heb 13:17; *lv 39-40 ¶8-9*)

JEHOVAH LOVES AND TRUSTS THOSE WHO ARE “READY TO OBEY” (10 min.)

When the 12 spies returned from spying out the Promised Land, only Joshua and Caleb gave a good report (Nu 14:6-9)

They showed a readiness to obey because they were convinced that it was really God, not a mere man, who was leading His people

Their words and conduct showed that they feared Jehovah and respected those whom Jehovah was using

Jehovah was listening, and he rewarded their “different spirit” (Nu 14:24, 30)

We too must show our fear of God and be “ready to obey” [**Read James 3:17**]

The Greek word rendered “ready to obey” conveys the idea of being “easy to be persuaded” and “submissive” (*cl 224 ¶14*)

In other words, we readily submit to “the wisdom from above,” and we are convinced that those taking the lead have our best interests at heart

Jehovah God, Jesus Christ, and the faithful and discreet slave have put great trust in the appointed men in the congregation

Each of us must ask himself: ‘Will I be found faithful? Am I living up to the trust that has been placed in me?’ [**Read 1 Corinthians 4:1, 2**] (Ex 18:21; Da 6:4)

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What spirit do I display when I receive direction from the organization? Do I contribute to the spirituality of those around me by manifesting a readiness to obey? Do I have a reputation for being obedient? When Jehovah listens to my words, what does he hear? (Lu 6:45; Php 2:12; *w16.11* 11 ¶11; *w08* 10/15 24 ¶14; *w07* 4/1 28 ¶9)

JEHOVAH REWARDS GODLY FEAR (3 min.)

As Jehovah leads us through these critical last days into his righteous new world, we will encounter challenges that will test our godly fear and obedience

Godly fear in the congregation leads to peace, unity, and growth [**Read Acts 9:31**]

Ultimately, our daily effort to demonstrate godly fear leads to life [**Read Malachi 3:16**]
(Pr 14:27; 23:17; Heb 6:10; *w12* 12/1 11)

VIDEO CONCLUSION (8 min.)

Let us now give our attention to a video presentation. Brother David Splane, a member of the Governing Body, will offer final words of encouragement to us

<<**PLAY VIDEO [7 min. 57 sec.]**>>

[Introduce song and concluding prayer]