

Listen to Elohim

By Yochanan Zaqantov

Do we listen to Elohim today? Do we hear the words when spoken to us? This is what we will be looking at today is what it is to listen and how we can do it today.

Lets look at the Hebrew word for hear. Shama (shin-mem-ayin) and its reference number 8085. It is a verb. It can also be Shame'a too with different vowels but the same Hebrew letters.

Bereshit/Genesis 3:8-10

8 **They heard the sound** (vayish'me'u et qol וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ אֶת-קוֹל) of Yehovah Elohim moving about in the garden at the breezy time of day; and the man and his wife hid from Yehovah Elohim among the trees of the garden. 9 Yehovah Elohim called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 He replied, "**I heard the sound of You** (vayomer et qol'kha sham'tiy וַיֹּאמֶר אֶת-קוֹלְךָ שָׁמַעְתִּי) in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."

Here Adam literally hears his voice in the garden. The voice is qol in Hebrew, shama is used here to show he heard or listened.

Bereshit/Genesis 11:7

7 Let us, then, go down and confound their speech there, so **that they shall not understand** (lo yish'me'u לֹא יִשְׁמְעוּ) one another's speech."

Here we see that Yehovah is making it so that they no longer hear each other in the way they can understand. It is not that they can hear a sound but no longer understand that sound.

Bereshit/Genesis 22:18

18 All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, **because you have obeyed My command** (asher shama'ta baqoliy אֲשֶׁר שָׁמַעְתָּ בְּקוֹלִי)."

Here we see that Avraham listened/understood his voice. Understanding is an important part of listening.

Bereshit/Genesis 41:15

15 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it. Now I have heard it said of you that for **you to hear** (tish’ma תִּשְׁמַע) a dream is to tell its meaning.”

Yosef had to be hear and understand the dream and Yehovah had to reveal its meaning to him. But to Pharaoh it was like he only had to hear it.

Shemot/Exodus 2:24 (23-25)

23 A long time after that, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites were groaning under the bondage and cried out; and their cry for help from the bondage rose up to Elohim.

24 **Elohim heard** (vayish’ma Elohim וַיִּשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים) their moaning, and Elohim remembered His covenant with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. 25 Elohim looked upon the Israelites, and Elohim took notice of them.

Even though Elohim does not literally have ears he still hears us as we pray to him. There are many instances of this in the Tanakh where he hears men and women. For instance, I Kings 9 where Elohim tells Melekh Shlomo (King Solomon) that he heard his prayer.

Shemot/Exodus 3:7, 18

7 And Yehovah continued, “I have marked well the plight of My people in Egypt and have **heeded** (shama’tiy – I heard שָׁמַעְתִּי) their outcry because of their taskmasters; yes, I am mindful of their sufferings.

Yehovah hears their cry.

18 **They will listen to you** (veshama’u leqolekha וְשָׁמְעוּ לְקוֹלְךָ); then you shall go with the elders of Israel to the king of Egypt and you shall say to him, ‘Yehovah, the Elohey of the Hebrews, manifested Himself to us. Now therefore, let us go a distance of three days into the wilderness to sacrifice to Yehovah Elohey.’

Here we see it used as listen or hear and we know it is also to understand.

Shemot/Exodus 4:8-9

8 “And if they do not believe you **or pay heed** (velo yish’mu’u leqol וְלֹא יִשְׁמְעוּ לְקוֹלְךָ) to the first sign, they will believe the second. 9 And if they are not convinced by both these signs **and still do not heed you** (velo yish’mu’un leqolekha וְלֹא יִשְׁמְעוּ לְקוֹלְךָ)

יִשְׁמְעוּן לְקוֹלִי), take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and it—the water that you take from the Nile—will turn to blood on the dry ground.”

The signs were a kind of voice and in doing them the people were to listen to them. They were to understand them as proof of Moshe's connection to Elohim.

Shemot/Exodus 6:5, 9

5 I have now **heard** (shama'tiy שָׁמַעְתִּי) the moaning of the Israelites because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant.

Elohim heard the suffering and moaning.

9 But when Moses told this to the Israelites, they would **not listen** (velo sham'u וְלֹא שָׁמְעוּ) to Moses, their spirits crushed by cruel bondage.

Moshe tried to tell the Yisraelim that Elohim would free them but it was not believable to them so they would not listen. Some times we can hear the word but not believe the will happen. Another part of listening to Elohim is to believe he will do what he speaks.

Shemot/Exodus 15:26

26 He said, “**If you will heed Yehovah Eloheykha diligently** (im shamo'a tish'ma leqol Yehovah Eloheykha אִם-שָׁמוּעַ תִּשְׁמַע לְקוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ), doing what is upright in His sight, giving ear to His commandments and keeping all His laws, then I will not bring upon you any of the diseases that I brought upon the Egyptians, for I Yehovah am your healer.”

We see the use of emphasis by repeating shama here to reflect utterly listening, understanding his voice (qol). We are required to really listen to him not just one day or a few days but every day.

Shemot/Exodus 19:5

5 Now then, **if you will obey Me faithfully** (im shamo'a tish'me'u baqoliy אִם-שָׁמוּעַ תִּשְׁמְעוּ בְּקוֹלִי) and keep My covenant, you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples. Indeed, all the earth is Mine,

Again the emphasis is made again that they listen and understand intently. Very similar to the previous verse.

Shemot/Exodus 24:7 (7-8)

7 Then he took the record of the covenant and read it aloud to the people. And they said, “All that Yehovah has spoken **we will faithfully do** (na’aseh venish’ma נַעֲשֶׂה וְנִשְׁמָע וְנִשְׁמָע!)” 8 Moses took the blood and dashed it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that Yehovah now makes with you concerning all these commands.”

Here the people state they will listen/hear and understand. It is interesting that it says do (asah) and then listen/hear (shama).

Vayiqra/Leviticus 26:14, 18, 21, 27

14 But if **you do not obey** (lo tish’me’u לֹא תִשְׁמָעוּ) Me and do not observe all these commandments, 15 if you reject My laws and spurn My rules, so that you do not observe all My commandments and you break My covenant, 16 I in turn will do this to you: I will wreak misery upon you—consumption and fever, which cause the eyes to pine and the body to languish; you shall sow your seed to no purpose, for your enemies shall eat it. 17 I will set My face against you: you shall be routed by your enemies, and your foes shall dominate you. You shall flee though none pursues. 18 And if, for all that, **you do not obey** (lo tish’me’u לֹא תִשְׁמָעוּ) Me, I will go on to discipline you sevenfold for your sins, 19 and I will break your proud glory. I will make your skies like iron and your earth like copper, 20 so that your strength shall be spent to no purpose. Your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit.

21 And if you remain hostile toward Me **and refuse to obey** (velo tovu lish’mo’a וְלֹא תֵאָבֹוּ לְשִׁמְעַי) Me, I will go on smiting you sevenfold for your sins. 22 I will loose wild beasts against you, and they shall bereave you of your children and wipe out your cattle. They shall decimate you, and your roads shall be deserted.

23 And if these things fail to discipline you for Me, and you remain hostile to Me,

24 I too will remain hostile to you: I in turn will smite you sevenfold for your sins.

25 I will bring a sword against you to wreak vengeance for the covenant; and if you withdraw into your cities, I will send pestilence among you, and you shall be delivered into enemy hands. 26 When I break your staff of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in a single oven; they shall dole out your bread by weight, and though you eat, you shall not be satisfied.

27 But if, despite this, **you disobey** (lo tish’me’u לֹא תִשְׁמָעוּ) Me and remain hostile to Me,

When one does not attentively listen to Elohim and follow what he says then this list how he will be dealt with.

Bamidbar/Numbers 14:13-15, 22

13 But Moses said to Yehovah, “When the Egyptians, from whose midst You brought up this people in Your might, **hear** (vesham’u וְשָׁמְעוּ) the news, 14 they will tell it to the inhabitants of that land. Now they have **heard** (sham’u שָׁמְעוּ) that You, Yehovah, are in the midst of this people; that You, Yehovah, appear in plain sight when Your cloud rests over them and when You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. 15 If then You slay this people to a man, the nations who have **heard** (sham’u שָׁמְעוּ) Your fame will say,

They Egyptians will report how the Elohey of Yisrael did to them and was with Yisrael but Moshe also states that if Yehovah were to slay the people then they would report bad things to the nations and those people would hear of them.

22 none of the men who have seen My Presence and the signs that I have performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, and who have tried Me these many times **and have disobeyed Me** (velo sham’u baqoliy וְלֹא שָׁמְעוּ בְּקוֹלִי), 23 shall see the land that I promised on oath to their fathers; none of those who spurn Me shall see it.

They listened not to my voice. Listen to Elohim is how we learn what we are to do and be seen as obedient.

Bamidbar/Numbers 30:4-15

4 If a woman makes a vow to Yehovah or assumes an obligation while still in her father’s household by reason of her youth, 5 **and her father learns** (veshama avi’ha וְשָׁמַע אָבִיהָ) of her vow or her self-imposed obligation and offers no objection, all her vows shall stand and every self-imposed obligation shall stand. 6 But if her father restrains her on the day **he finds out** (shama’o שָׁמְעוּ), none of her vows or self-imposed obligations shall stand; and Yehovah will forgive her, since her father restrained her.

7 If she should marry while her vow or the commitment to which she bound herself is still in force, 8 **and her husband learns of it** (veshama ishah וְשָׁמַע אִישָׁהּ) and offers no objection **on the day he finds out** (bayom sham’o בְּיוֹם שָׁמְעוּ), her vows shall stand and her self-imposed obligations shall stand. 9 But if her husband restrains her **on the day that he learns of it** (ve’im bayom shemo’a וְאִם בְּיוֹם שָׁמַעַ), he thereby annuls her vow which was in force or the commitment to which she bound herself; and Yehovah will forgive her. 10 —The vow of a widow or of a divorced woman, however, whatever she has imposed on herself, shall be binding upon her.—

11 So, too, if, while in her husband’s household, she makes a vow or imposes an obligation on herself by oath, 12 **and her husband learns of it** (veshama ishah

וְשָׁמַע אִישָׁהּ), yet offers no objection—thus failing to restrain her—all her vows shall stand and all her self-imposed obligations shall stand. **13** But if her husband does annul them **on the day he finds out (bayom Sham'o בְּיוֹם שָׁמְעוֹ)**, then nothing that has crossed her lips shall stand, whether vows or self-imposed obligations. Her husband has annulled them, and Yehovah will forgive her. **14** Every vow and every sworn obligation of self-denial may be upheld by her husband or annulled by her husband. **15** If her husband offers no objection from that day to the next, he has upheld all the vows or obligations she has assumed: he has upheld them by offering no objection **on the day he found out (bayom Sham'o בְּיוֹם שָׁמְעוֹ)**.

Here we see shama used to denote the words of the oath that are heard and understood. The Husband (ish) must be told of the words by his wife (ishah) or the Father (Av) and his daughter (bat).

Devarim/Deuteronomy 1:16-17, 43-44

**15** So I took your tribal leaders, wise and experienced men, and appointed them heads over you: chiefs of thousands, chiefs of hundreds, chiefs of fifties, and chiefs of tens, and officials for your tribes. **16** I charged your magistrates at that time as follows, “**Hear out (shamo'a שָׁמַע)** your fellow men, and decide justly between any man and a fellow Israelite or a stranger. **17** You shall not be partial in judgment: **hear out (tish'ma'un תִּשְׁמַעוּן)** low and high alike. Fear no man, for judgment is Elohim's. And any matter that is too difficult for you, you shall bring to me **and I will hear it (ushema'tiy וְשָׁמַעְתִּיו)**.”

Our judges were told to listen to all and not unfairly judge.

**42** But Yehovah said to me, “Warn them: Do not go up and do not fight, since I am not in your midst; else you will be routed by your enemies.” **43** I spoke to you, **but you would not listen (velo shema'tem וְלֹא שָׁמַעְתֶּם)**; you flouted Yehovah's command and willfully marched into the hill country. **44** Then the Amorites who lived in those hills came out against you like so many bees and chased you, and they crushed you at Hormah in Seir. **45** Again you wept before Yehovah; but Yehovah would **not heed your cry (velo shama וְלֹא-שָׁמַע)** or give ear to you.

The Israelim would not listen to Yehovah and Moshe and instead were defeated.

Devarim/Deuteronomy 4:1, 6, 10, 12, 28, 30, 36

1 And now, O Israel, give heed (shema שְׁמַע) to the laws and rules that I am instructing you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that Yehovah, Elohey of your fathers, is giving you. 2 You shall not add anything to what I command you or take anything away from it, but keep the commandments of Yehovah Eloheykha that I enjoin upon you. 3 You saw with your own eyes what Yehovah did in the matter of Baal-peor, that Yehovah Eloheykha wiped out from among you every person who followed Baal-peor; 4 while you, who held fast to Yehovah Eloheykha, are all alive today.

5 See, I have imparted to you laws and rules, as Yehovah Elohay has commanded me, for you to abide by in the land that you are about to enter and occupy. 6 Observe them faithfully, for that will be proof of your wisdom and discernment to other peoples, who **on hearing (yish'me'un יִשְׁמְעוּן)** of all these laws will say, “Surely, that great nation

is a wise and discerning people.” 7 For what great nation is there that has a god so close at hand as is Yehovah Eloheynu whenever we call upon Him? 8 Or what great nation has laws and rules as perfect as all this Teaching that I set before you this day?

9 But take utmost care and watch yourselves scrupulously, so that you do not forget the things that you saw with your own eyes and so that they do not fade from your mind as long as you live. And make them known to your children and to your children’s children:

10 The day you stood before Yehovah Eloheykha at Horeb, when Yehovah said to Me, “Gather the people to Me that I may let **them hear (yish'me'un יִשְׁמְעוּן)** My words,

in order that they may learn to revere Me as long as they live on earth, and may so teach their children.” 11 You came forward and stood at the foot of the mountain. The

mountain was ablaze with flames to the very skies, dark with densest clouds.

12 Yehovah spoke to you out of the fire; **you heard (shom'im שְׁמַעִים)** the sound of words but perceived no shape—nothing but a voice (qol).

They heard his voice but saw nothing in shape. That which they hear was so they could learn and teach to their children after them.

26 I call heaven and earth this day to witness against you that you shall soon perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess; you shall not long endure in it, but shall be utterly wiped out. 27 Yehovah will scatter you among the peoples, and only a scant few of you shall be left among the nations to which Yehovah will drive you.

28 There you will serve man-made gods of wood and stone, that cannot see **or hear (velo yish'me'un וְלֹא יִשְׁמְעוּן)** or eat or smell.

29 But if you search there for Yehovah Eloheykha, you will find Him, if only you seek Him with all your heart and soul—30 when you are in distress because all these things have befallen you and, in the end, return to Yehovah Eloheykha **and obey Him**

(veshama'ta baqoli וְשַׁמַּעְתָּ בְּקוֹלִי). 31 For Yehovah Eloheykha is a

compassionate Elohim: He will not fail you nor will He let you perish; He will not forget the covenant which He made on oath with your fathers.

32 You have but to inquire about bygone ages that came before you, ever since Elohim created man on earth, from one end of heaven to the other: has anything as grand as this ever happened, or has its like ever been known? 33 **Has any people heard the voice of a Elohim (hashama am qol elohim הַשְׁמַע עִם קוֹל אֱלֹהִים)** speaking out of a fire, as you have, and survived? 34 Or has any god ventured to go and take for himself one nation from the midst of another by prodigious acts, by signs and portents, by war, by a mighty and an outstretched arm and awesome power, as Yehovah Eloheykha did for you in Egypt before your very eyes? 35 It has been clearly demonstrated to you that Yehovah alone is Elohim; there is none beside Him. 36 From the heavens **He let you hear His voice (hish'mi'akha et qolo הִשְׁמִיעַךְ אֶת-קוֹלוֹ)** to discipline you; on earth He let you see His great fire; and from amidst that fire you heard His words.

To listen requires the hearing of the speaking. It tells us that he let them here his voice.

Devarim/Deuteronomy 5:1, 23, 24, 25

5:1 Moses summoned all the Israelites and said to them: **Hear (shema שְׁמַע)**, O Israel, the laws and rules that I proclaim to you this day! Study them and observe them faithfully!

20 When you heard the voice out of the darkness, while the mountain was ablaze with fire, you came up to me, all your tribal heads and elders, 21 and said, “Yehovah Eloheykha has just shown us His majestic Presence, and we have heard His voice out of the fire; we have seen this day that man may live though Elohim has spoken to him.

22 Let us not die, then, for this fearsome fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of Yehovah Eloheykha any longer, we shall die. 23 For what mortal ever **heard the voice (shama qol שָׁמַע קוֹל)** of the living Elohim speak out of the fire, as we did, and

lived? 24 You go closer **and hear (ushama וּשְׁמַע)** all that Yehovah Eloheykha says, and then you tell us everything that Yehovah Eloheykha tells you, and we will willingly do it.”

25 Yehovah **heard (veyish'ma וַיִּשְׁמַע)** the plea that you made to me, and Yehovah said to me, “**I have heard (shama'tiy שָׁמַעַתִּי)** the plea that this people made to you; they did well to speak thus. 26 May they always be of such mind, to revere Me and follow all My commandments, that it may go well with them and with their children forever! 27 Go, say to them, ‘Return to your tents.’ 28 But you remain here with Me, and I will give you the whole Instruction—the laws and the rules—that you shall impart to them, for them to observe in the land that I am giving them to possess.”

29 Be careful, then, to do as Yehovah Eloheykha has commanded you. Do not turn aside to the right or to the left: 30 follow only the path that Yehovah Eloheykha has enjoined upon you, so that you may thrive and that it may go well with you, and that you may long endure in the land you are to possess.

They heard Yehovah when he spoke to them on the Mountain. In turn he heard them when they spoke to Moshe.

Devarim/Deuteronomy 6:3, 4

**3 Obey** (v'shama'ta **וְשָׁמַעְתָּ**), O Israel, willingly and faithfully, that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly [in] a land flowing with milk and honey, as Yehovah, Elohey of your fathers, spoke to you. **4 Hear** (shema **שְׁמַע**), O Israel! Yehovah is Eloheynu, Yehovah alone.

You have here two forms of the verb Shama, both used in the way to tell Yisrael they need to listen to Yehovah.

Devarim/Deuteronomy 7:12

**12** And if **you do obey** (**tish'me'un תִּשְׁמַעוּן**) these rules and observe them carefully, Yehovah Eloheykha will maintain faithfully for you the covenant that He made on oath with your fathers: **13** He will favor you and bless you and multiply you; He will bless the issue of your womb and the produce of your soil, your new grain and wine and oil, the calving of your herd and the lambing of your flock, in the land that He swore to your fathers to assign to you. **14** You shall be blessed above all other peoples: there shall be no sterile male or female among you or among your livestock. **15** Yehovah will ward off from you all sickness; He will not bring upon you any of the dreadful diseases of Egypt, about which you know, but will inflict them upon all your enemies. **16** You shall destroy all the peoples that Yehovah Eloheykha delivers to you, showing them no pity. And you shall not worship their gods, for that would be a snare to you. **17** Should you say to yourselves, "These nations are more numerous than we; how can we dispossess them?" **18** You need have no fear of them. You have but to bear in mind what Yehovah Eloheykha did to Pharaoh and all the Egyptians: **19** the wondrous acts that you saw with your own eyes, the signs and the portents, the mighty hand, and the outstretched arm by which Yehovah Eloheykha liberated you. Thus will Yehovah Eloheykha do to all the peoples you now fear. **20** Yehovah Eloheykha will also send a plague against them, until those who are left in hiding perish before you. **21** Do not stand in dread of them, for Yehovah Eloheykha is in your midst, a great and awesome God. **22** Yehovah Eloheykha will dislodge those peoples before you little by little; you will not be able to put an end to them at once, else the wild beasts would multiply to your hurt. **23** Yehovah Eloheykha will deliver them up to you, throwing them into utter panic until they are wiped out. **24** He will deliver their kings into your hand, and you shall obliterate their name from under the heavens; no man shall stand up to you, until you have wiped them out. **25** You shall consign the images of their gods to the fire; you shall not covet the silver and gold on them and keep it for yourselves, lest you be ensnared thereby; for that is abhorrent to Yehovah Eloheykha. **26** You must not bring an abhorrent thing into your

house, or you will be proscribed like it; you must reject it as abominable and abhorrent, for it is proscribed.

This shows the blessings that Yehovah will grant to us if we listen to him.

Devarim/Deuteronomy 11:27-28

26 See, this day I set before you blessing and curse: 27 blessing, if **you obey** (**tish'me'u – they will listen** תִּשְׁמְעוּ) the commandments of Yehovah Eloheykha that I enjoin upon you this day; 28 and curse, if **you do not obey (lo tish'me'u – not they will listen** לֹא תִשְׁמְעוּ) the commandments of Yehovah Eloheykha, but turn away from the path that I enjoin upon you this day and follow other gods, whom you have not experienced.

Blessings happen when we listen and curses when we do not listen.

Devarim/Deuteronomy 12:28

28 Be careful **to heed** (**veshama'ta – you listen** וְשָׁמַעְתָּ) all these commandments that I enjoin upon you; thus it will go well with you and with your descendants after you forever, for you will be doing what is good and right in the sight of Yehovah Eloheykha.

Again the requirement to listen to Elohim is something that is not understated in the Torah.

Devarim/Deuteronomy 15:5

1 Every seventh year you shall practice remission of debts. 2 This shall be the nature of the remission: every creditor shall remit the due that he claims from his fellow; he shall not dun his fellow or kinsman, for the remission proclaimed is of Yehovah. 3 You may dun the foreigner; but you must remit whatever is due you from your kinsmen. 4 There shall be no needy among you—since Yehovah Eloheykha will bless you in the land that Yehovah Eloheykha is giving you as a hereditary portion—5 if only **you heed Yehovah Eloheykha and take care** (**Shamo'a tish'ma baqol Yehovah Eloheykha—utterly listen in voice Yehovah Eloheykha** שָׁמוֹעַ תִּשְׁמַע בְּקוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ) to keep all this Instruction that I enjoin upon you this day.

We need to absolutely listen to Yehovah and what he commands us.

Devarim/Deuteronomy 27:9

9 Moses and the levitical priests spoke to all Israel, saying: Silence! **Hear (ushema ושמע)**, O Israel! Today you have become the people of Yehovah Eloheykha:

10 **Heed (v'shama'ta ושמעת)** Yehovah Eloheykha and observe His commandments and His laws, which I enjoin upon you this day.

We must listen and do (asiyt) all he commands.

Devarim/Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 15

1 Now, if you obey Yehovah Eloheykha, to observe (**Shamo'a tish'ma baqol Yehovah Eloheykha—utterly listen in voice Yehovah Eloheykha**

**שמוע תשמע בקול יהוה אלהיך**) faithfully all His commandments which I enjoin upon you this day, Yehovah Eloheykha will set you high above all the nations of the earth. 2 All these blessings shall come upon you and take effect, if you will but heed the word of Yehovah Eloheykha:

15 But if you do not obey Yehovah Eloheykha to observe (**lo tish'ma baqol Yehovah Eloheykha – not listen in voice Yehovah Eloheykha**

**לא תשמע בקול יהוה אלהיך**) faithfully all His commandments and laws which I enjoin upon you this day, all these curses shall come upon you and take effect:

Blessings for listening and Curses for not listening.

Devarim/Deuteronomy 30:2,8, 10, 12, 13, 17, 20

1 When all these things befall you—the blessing and the curse that I have set before you—and you take them to heart amidst the various nations to which Yehovah Eloheykha has banished you, 2 and you return to Yehovah Eloheykha, and you and your children **heed (v'shama'ta baqol – and listen in his voice ושמעת בקול)** His command with all your heart and soul, just as I enjoin upon you this day, 3 then Yehovah Eloheykha will restore your fortunes and take you back in love. He will bring you together again from all the peoples where Yehovah Eloheykha has scattered you.

8 You, however, will again heed (**v'shama'ta baqol – and listen in his voice**

**ושמעת בקול)** Yehovah and obey all His commandments that I enjoin upon you this day. 9 And Yehovah Eloheykha will grant you abounding prosperity in all your undertakings, in the issue of your womb, the offspring of your cattle, and the produce of your soil. For Yehovah will again delight in your well-being, as He did in that of your fathers, 10 since you will be **heeding (tish'ma baqol תשמע בקול)** Yehovah Eloheykha and keeping His commandments and laws that are recorded in this book of the Teaching—once you return to Yehovah Eloheykha with all your heart and soul.

11 Surely, this Instruction which I enjoin upon you this day is not too baffling for you, nor is it beyond reach. 12 It is not in the heavens, that you should say, “Who among us can go up to the heavens and get it for us **and impart it to us (v’yish’mi’enu וְיִשְׁמְעֵנוּ)**), that we may observe it?” 13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, “Who among us can cross to the other side of the sea and get it for us **and impart it to us (v’yish’mi’enu וְיִשְׁמְעֵנוּ)**), that we may observe it?” 14 No, the thing is very close to you, in your mouth and in your heart, to observe it.

15 See, I set before you this day life and prosperity, death and adversity. 16 For I command you this day, to love Yehovah Eloheykha, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His laws, and His rules, that you may thrive and increase, and that Yehovah Eloheykha may bless you in the land that you are about to enter and possess.

17 But if your heart turns away and you give **no heed (v’lo tish’ma וְלֹא תִשְׁמָע)**, and are lured into the worship and service of other gods, 18 I declare to you this day that you shall certainly perish; you shall not long endure on the soil that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day: I have put before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life—if you and your offspring would live—20 by loving Yehovah Eloheykha, **heeding (lish’mo’a baqol לִשְׁמָע בְּקוֹלוֹ)** His commands, and holding fast to Him. For thereby you shall have life and shall long endure upon the soil that Yehovah swore to your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give to them.

Here we see that if we listen we will live long upon the land. That includes the time once we are brought back.

Devarim/Deuteronomy 31:12, 13

10 And Moses instructed them as follows: Every seventh year, the year set for remission, at the Feast of Booths, 11 when all Israel comes to appear before Yehovah Eloheykha in the place that He will choose, you shall read this Teaching aloud in the presence of all Israel. 12 Gather the people—men, women, children, and the strangers in your communities—that **they may hear (yish’mo’u יִשְׁמְעוּ)** and so learn to revere Yehovah Eloheykha and to observe faithfully every word of this Teaching. 13 Their children, too, who have not had the experience, **[they] shall hear (yish’mo’u יִשְׁמְעוּ)** and learn to revere Yehovah Eloheykha as long as they live in the land that you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.

The way they hear his voice was that the text was read to them. That is how we listen to Yehovah we hear (shama) what he is saying to us. Today he does not speak to us and we have no prophets but we do have his written word to read. If we read it in the language he had it written down in we can understand the things he has for us to do to be obedient to him.