

# Deuteronomy 5:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them.

## Analysis

Moses summons 'all Israel' to hear the statutes and judgments, emphasizing communal responsibility and covenant unity. The command to 'hear, O Israel' (Shema Yisrael) becomes central to Jewish identity. The threefold imperative —'hear,' 'learn,' 'keep and do'—establishes the proper sequence: reception of God's word, understanding through study, and obedient application. The Hebrew 'shamar' (keep/observe) implies careful guarding and preserving, while 'asah' (do) means active performance. Hearing without doing is covenant violation.

## Historical Context

This verse introduces Moses' recitation of the Ten Commandments to the second generation (Deuteronomy 5:6-21). While the first generation heard the commandments directly at Sinai (Exodus 20), this generation needs instruction as they prepare to enter Canaan. Moses' rehearsal of covenant law establishes intergenerational continuity and emphasizes that covenant obligations don't expire with the original recipients but continue across generations.

## Related Passages

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does the progression from hearing to learning to doing shape your approach to Scripture?
2. What does Moses' rehearsal of the law to a new generation teach about passing faith to the next generation?

## Interlinear Text

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אֱלֹהִים וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֲלֹהִים  
called And Moses H413 H3605 O Israel and said H413  
H7121 H4872 H3478 H559

אֲשֶׁר רְשָׁעָתֶם וְעַמְּךָ אֲשֶׁר  
unto them Hear O Israel H853 the statutes H853 and judgments H834  
H8085 H3478 H2706 H4941

אֲתָּה מִלְמְדָתָךְ כִּי יְמִינְךָ אֲנָכִּי  
which I speak in your ears this day that ye may learn H853  
H595 H1696 H241 H3117 H3925

לְעֶשֶׂתְּךָ וְשִׁמְרָתְּךָ  
them and keep and do  
H8104 H6213

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 4:1** (Judgment): Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.

**Matthew 23:3** (Parallel theme): All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.