

# Exodus 4:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.

## Analysis

**And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign** (וְיֹאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים לֵאמֹר לֹא יִאמְרְנָה לְךָ וְלֹא יִשְׁמַע לְקַל פָּאָת בְּרָאָשׁוֹן וְפָאָת בְּאַפְרָוֹן)—God's patient provision: **if they will not believe... the first sign... the latter sign.** God knows human weakness and provides multiple confirmations. **Voice of the sign** (קַל פָּאָת, qol ha'ot)—signs "speak," testifying to God's power. The progression from rod-to-serpent (power over forces of evil) to leprosy-healing (power over sin/disease) moves from external authority to personal transformation. God's patience with skepticism shows His understanding of human frailty—He provides sufficient evidence for faith.

## Historical Context

Israel's 400 years of bondage likely witnessed failed liberation attempts and false messiahs, creating understandable skepticism. God's provision of multiple signs shows wisdom—He doesn't expect blind faith but provides reasonable evidence. The graduated signs (if the first doesn't convince, try the second) demonstrate God's patient accommodation to human weakness.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's provision of multiple signs encourage you that He understands and accommodates honest doubt?
2. What 'signs' has God given you progressively to build faith when initial doubts remained?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵם יְמִיהָ	לֹא	וְאֵם יְמִיהָ	וְאֵם יְמִיהָ	לֹא	וְאֵם יְמִיהָ
H1961	H518	H3808	<b>And it shall come to pass if they will not believe</b>	H0	H3808
			H539		
וְאֵם יְמִיהָ	לֹא	וְאֵם יְמִיהָ	וְאֵם יְמִיהָ	לֹא	וְאֵם יְמִיהָ
thee neither hearken	the voice	sign	of the first		
H8085	H6963	H226	H7223		
וְאֵם יְמִיהָ	לֹא	וְאֵם יְמִיהָ	וְאֵם יְמִיהָ	לֹא	וְאֵם יְמִיהָ
<b>And it shall come to pass if they will not believe</b>	<b>the voice</b>	<b>sign</b>	<b>of the latter</b>		
H539	H6963	H226	H314		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 28:10** (Parallel theme): For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

**Deuteronomy 32:39** (Parallel theme): See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

