

# Isaiah 28:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Give ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech.

## Analysis

**Give ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech.** Isaiah shifts from warning (vv.1-22) to wisdom parable (vv.23-29) illustrating God's purposeful methods. The fourfold summons to attention—**give ye ear** (ha'azinu, הָאִזְנָה, listen carefully), **hear my voice** (shim'u qoli, שִׁמְעֵוּ קֹלִי, hear my voice), **hearken** (haqshivu, הָקִשְׁבּוּ, pay attention), **hear my speech** (shim'u imrati, שִׁמְעֵוּ אִמְרָתִי, hear my word)—emphasizes critical importance of the following analogy. This isn't casual observation but divine instruction requiring full attention.

The repetition recalls Deuteronomy 6:4 (Shema: "Hear, O Israel") and Moses's song (Deuteronomy 32:1: "Give ear, O ye heavens"). Prophets regularly demand attention before crucial revelations (Isaiah 1:2, Jeremiah 2:4, Hosea 4:1). Jesus similarly said, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear" (Matthew 11:15, 13:9). What follows (the farmer parable) provides theological framework for understanding God's varied dealings—why He uses different methods for different purposes, always working toward harvest.

## Historical Context

Ancient Israelites, being agricultural society, would immediately connect with farming analogies. Isaiah uses their daily experience (plowing, planting, threshing) to explain divine methodology. Jesus later used similar agricultural parables (sower, wheat and tares, mustard seed). Paul applies threshing imagery to ministry support (1 Corinthians 9:9-10). The wisdom tradition frequently drew lessons from

nature and agriculture (Proverbs 6:6-8, 24:30-34). God's truth is embedded in creation patterns, teaching spiritual realities through natural processes.

## Related Passages

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

1. Why does Isaiah use fourfold repetition to command attention before his farming parable?
2. How does God speak through creation and natural processes to teach spiritual truth?
3. What does your attentiveness to Scripture reveal about how seriously you take God's instruction?

## Interlinear Text

אָמַרְתִּי:	וְשָׁמַעַתִּי:	וְשָׁמַעַתִּי:	פָּקַדְתִּי:	וְשָׁמַעַתִּי:	וְשָׁמַעַתִּי:
Give ye ear	and hear	my voice	hearken	and hear	my speech
H238	H8085	H6963	H7181	H8085	H565

## Additional Cross-References

**Isaiah 1:2** (Parallel theme): Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

**Jeremiah 22:29** (Parallel theme): O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD.