

# Jeremiah 35:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me.

## Analysis

**I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them**—The phrase hashkem v'shalo'ach (השכם ושלח, 'rising early and sending') appears throughout Jeremiah, depicting God's relentless pursuit of His wayward people. The image of God 'rising early' (like a diligent workman) anthropomorphically conveys divine eagerness to save, not destroy.

**Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings** (שובו נא shuvu na ish mi-darko hara'ah v'heitivu ma'alleikhem)—The verb שוב (shuv, return/repent) is Jeremiah's keynote, appearing over 100 times. **Go not after other gods** (אל־תִּלְכוּ אַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים al-telkhu acharei elohim acherim)—Idolatry as spiritual adultery, the breaking of the first commandment. **But ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me**—The damning verdict: despite prophetic persistence, Judah remained deaf.

## Historical Context

From Moses through Malachi, God sent prophets 'rising up early'—over 800 years of prophetic witness before Judah's exile. The prophets called for return (shuv)

from Baal worship, Asherah poles, child sacrifice to Molech, and syncretistic temple rituals that violated the Mosaic covenant. Judah's refusal led to the 586 BC destruction.

## **Related Passages**

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

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

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## **Study Questions**

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1. How does God's 'rising early' to send prophets contrast with your sluggishness to respond to His word—who is more eager, God to save or you to repent?
2. What 'other gods' (career, comfort, reputation, pleasure) do you subtly follow 'after' while maintaining religious appearances?
3. In what ways have you 'not inclined your ear' to God's repeated calls through Scripture, circumstances, or conscience, preferring spiritual deafness to costly obedience?

3

**Jeremiah 22:4** (Parallel theme): For if ye do this thing indeed, then shall there enter in by the gates of this house kings sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, he, and his servants, and his people.

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