

'Hear And Obey'

An idea for a musical presentation based on the importance of, and the need to hear God's voice, and to obey Him.

We start our journey with the encouragement and warning given to God's people in Deuteronomy 6:3-9 to hear, pay attention, follow closely and to obey all that he's told them in order for them to live safely and to flourish.

'Hear & Obey' Song

Although Jehovah God had already spoken directly to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob among others, His people were now a large nation. And it was to Moses that God spoke directly, , and through him to all the people. Moses certainly heard God speaking in some unusual ways!

Moses's Song

Just like some of us might feel today, back in those early Old Testament days it seemed like sincere prayers could still seem to go unanswered. Hannah was in that situation, but never gave up. She persisted - even through the disapproval of some around her.

Hannah's Song

It was largely through prophets that God spoke and communicated to his people back then. Of course, that meant that those prophets were to faithfully listen to God and obey what he told them to do. Occasionally that didn't happen as it should. This is a rather irreverent take on two such people!

Jonah & Balaam's Song

But mostly the Biblical prophets did indeed listen closely to Jehovah, and faithfully spoke to kings and paupers alike the things that God wanted them to hear. Elijah was one such prophet that spoke God's word, even at the risk of his life. At times he was as scared as we would be, and almost gave up! That's when he heard God's voice in a most unexpected way!

Elijah's Song

It was always God's intention that His people 'hear and obey' Him not merely out of obligation towards the Mosaic laws and ordinances of ancient worship, but from their hearts; out of love for Him and not coercion. No one proclaimed this more clearly than the prophet Jeremiah, who pointed forward to the day when Jesus would usher in the age when all would be invited to experience that 'face to face' relationship with Himself.

A Day Will Come

Of course, it doesn't matter how long or how short a time it has been since we first met Him in that 'face to face' way, we are all still apprentices in learning how to 'hear and obey' God. And we all have questions about how we do that - especially those of us who are new to the Christian life - how to listen and pay attention in and through our individual circumstances.

While there are many ways we hear God in today's world, this song points to the most important things which answer those questions.

Get To Know His Word

(Will be updated as the songs get written)

Hear Oh People (2)

Hear O people, listen today
Hear and obey what God has spoken
Hear O people, come and draw near
Listening clearly, ears and eyes wide open

Love the Lord with all your strength
With all your mind and soul
Keep his words upon your heart
In every way and every place you go

Hear O people ... etc ...etc ...

Follow close and trust him now
And every day the same
Give honor to your God alone
And never cease to praise his holy name

Hear O people ... etc ...etc rpt.

Talk about them when you're at home
Out and about or alone
A lamp and a light to your way
His presence every day

Hear O people ... etc ...etc rpt.

Moses' Song

Baby Moses, floating in a cradle on a river
You would never think a mother ever
Would leave a precious baby altogether
But you and I have never faced a murdering king
Out to kill the babies above everything ... oh no

Now see Moses, growing up & getting into trouble
Running out of there at the double
Cushy life turning into rubble
Getting right away from the life that he knew
Little did he know that God was planning to go there too

Voice in the fire then up in the mountain top
Seeing Him face to face, hearing the voice of God
Feeling he's not enough, finding the going rough
Moses, you're not alone

You're leading your people to a new home

On a mountain, climbing with his sheep to the summit
Burning bush and voice coming from it
Maybe thinking he was gonna plummet
Right down from the hill, or maybe burn in the fire
But God told him that he was chosen for something much higher

Now Moses, leader of the people God had chosen
Pharaoh down & out & getting broken
Miracles that showed that God had spoken
Rivers uncrossable he led them through
They groaned a whole lot just like me and you can do

Voice in the fire then up in the mountain top etc ... etc...

Hannah's Song

In the deepest of places where loneliness reigns
For years so much silence, a grave it remained
No answer, no child, no voice and no light
But my words unspoken poured out in the night

Was it time to cease everything, embracing the dark
While forgetting for all time the one thing I ask
Go home and be thankless, and living the lie
That all is quite well, all while dying inside

Lord, see me, the words I can form but not say
Though they pity and scold me I know, you hear what I pray

For you raise the poor and the needy to life
And the barren you bless with the fruit of delight
For the ones that continue to hear and obey
Through the cold/dark of the night, you'll bring joy and bring light in the day

And those who are hungry will hunger no more
The humble are lifted, and strength is restored
For the ones who continue to hear and obey
Through the cold/dark of the night, where there's faith but no sight
My God, my rock, there is no-one beside you
You listen, you see me, and all those who hear and obey

Balaam & Jonah's Song

(Both)

Two prophets we, I'm Jonah & I'm Balaam

(J) I went to sea, (B) my silly ass caused mayhem

(Both) Together we stand a rather sorry pair

Our stories are pathetic, as if you'd even care.

For hearing & obeying, that's the basis of our trade

(B) Well, I chose to close my ears (J) and I just disobeyed.

(Balaam)

I got asked to curse this mighty scary nation,

Thought "sure, just an incantation ... well, in moderation"

But their God said 'yes', then he told me not to go

But the king upped the money, so I couldn't say no!

(Jonah)

Well, Jehovah one day he tells me, I've got to present

A word to Nasty Nineveh and tell them to repent.

And yes, he'd forgive them if certainly they'd turn

'Cos he's merciful & gracious me? I'd let them burn.

(Both)

Two prophets we, I'm Jonah & I'm Balaam

(J) I'm all at sea, (B) my donkey still caused mayhem

(Both) Together we stand a very sorry pairing

Our stories are therapeutic, thank you all for caring

So we'll continue telling you what big mistakes we made

(B) That I chose to close my ears (J) and I just disobeyed.

(Balaam)

So off I trot to do the curse when the silly ass speaks out

And tells me that an angel's there, and I'd better watch out

A talking donkey, who'd have thought their God was so inventive

I got the point and changed the curse, in spite of that nice incentive!

(Jonah)

Well off I sailed the other way, then we're about to drown

I tell them, throw me overboard, they did & the sea calmed down

Next moment I'm inside a whale ... (B) a 'great fish' don't you mean?

(J) Oh right, a fish (B) without the chips (J) God saved me, like a dream!

(Both)

Two prophets we, I'm Jonah and I'm Balaam

(B) I did the right thing in the end, but what a day man!

(J) So, I went to Ninevah, and like I said it went

God forgave the moment that I told them to repent

(Both) So God got it done ... in the end we did all right?

No, maybe not, our propheting ended up a sight!

All those intentions, they never went right

(Both)

Two prophets we, I'm Jonah & I'm Balaam

(B) Don't follow the money ... that just leads to mayhem

(J) Don't let life swallow you whole, sure, have a whale of a time (both) but know

That hearing and obeying ... first time, don't make a fuss

Will keep you strong & miles away from being just like us

... from being just like us ... don't be just like us

Elijah's Song

I've heard him in so many ways up to now
I've stood before great men and kings in His power
Proclaiming Jehovah, and all that he says
In spite of their sin, their backsliding and their wickedness

I've seen God at work in his strength and his might
At his word, no water, no rain day or night
I've been fed by ravens, had all I need supplied
That widow's oil and flour not running dry, her son raised to life

Chorus

Elijah, you're hearing His voice
Elijah, you're gonna hear whisper, a still small voice

Out on that mountain top, standing alone
Against those shouting, screaming prophets, their god deaf as stone
They're begging him to answer, they're wild and they're weeping
The moment of truth, and I say, 'let him stay sleeping'

Then Jehovah came, and his fire swept that alter
Burning stones, burning wood, even burning up the water
Contest over, done, oh, no argument at all
The people dumbfounded crying, 'the Lord is God, he is Lord'

Chorus

What was I thinking, exhausted, feeling so forsaken
Running from those threats, just like everything was being shaken
Take me Lord, I've had enough, all in, I've failed this test
Then came that angel with some food, comfort and rest

Then inside that cavern, dark, afraid and giving up
That presence in the cave, not harsh, it felt like perfect love
Outside a storm was raging, was he there in all that noise?
No, not in earthquake, wind or the fire, but then there came a still small voice

He was in that still small voice, I heard his still small voice
Have you heard his still small voice?

A Day Will Come

From the dawn of earth's creation, through the rise and fall of nations
Through each move and intervention, it was always God's intention
To weave the thread so carefully he planned
That love alone would be the one foundation made to stand

From that first breath in the garden, through such selfishness & hardened
hearts, the serpent's grip, that never slipped, was firmly round this human race
But from the Word that made the earth, and wrote on stone such priceless worth
The promise came that perfect love alone could make

A day will come when I will put my law inside their minds
And write it on their hearts from that day on until the end of time
And all will know me from the least to greatest of them all
For I'll forgive and I'll remember every sin no more

That promise came to pass, the Word himself became a man
He walked and trod the serpent's path, he stayed the serpent's hand
For love he'd stand in place of sin and take sin to that tree
In every way that promise kept, the serpent's grip now freed

A day will come when I will put my law inside their minds
And write it on their hearts from that day on until the end of time
And all will know me from the least to greatest of them all
For I'll forgive and I'll remember every sin no more

The day is here, and he has put his law inside our minds
It's written on our hearts, it's here from now until the end of time
And all can know him from the least and everybody here
If we but chose to listen and have open ears to hear
A day will come this day is here

Get To Know His Word

(Voice 1.)

What to do when I feel so uninspired
Oh so many talk about their hearts on fire
I know I believe, I've come a long, long way
Since the day I first met Him and started to pray
But how do you hear him in the noise of the crowd
I want to so badly but I don't know how
I believe that he listens whenever I pray
But how to hear him answer that's the question today

(Voice 2 / Singers)

Get to know his word - start reading and feeding and seeding your days with its truth
Get to know his word - like digging for treasure, what pleasure to find out the proof
That He's in those pages, has been there for ages and He'll speak as you feed & digest
Get to know his word - it's your first place and your best.

(Voice 1.)

So what if I feel I've got so little to give
When I read in those pages what great things they did
How can I do what they showed can be done
How would God show me what race I should should run
What can you do to show he is there
To the world outside that says he isn't anywhere
What can you say when the words don't come out right
How to make a difference when it seems such a fight

(Voice 2 / Singers)

Get to know his world - the ones he has placed where you are all around that you meet
Love them as yourself - as you serve them, you'll find him right there through your
hands & your feet
There you'll sense the voice that says, "as you do this to others, you're doing it to me,
well done"
To every faithful servant, every faithful daughter, every faithful son

So get to know his word - start hearing his voice in the pages you read day by day
Get to know his world - where he's placed you to do what he'd do, and to say what
he'd say
And there you'll sense the voice that says, "as you do this to others, you're doing it to
me, well done"
Get to know his word - it's your first place
Get to know his world - it's his workplace
Get to know his word, his world, for we are his showcase
Shining in darkness, reflecting his love and his grace