

To Hear or to Obey: What Did We Promise?

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Jastrow: שמע [abridged]

שמע (b. h.) [to be still,] to hear, listen, obey; to understand.

Hif. – השמיע **1)** to cause to hear; to announce. **2)** (sub. עצמו) to show one's self obedient, be persuaded, surrender, v. Nif.

Pi. – שימע **1)** to announce **2)** to assemble for mourning services

Nif. – נשמע **1)** to be heard; to be listened to, be obeyed. **2)** to show one's self willing; to submit to authority; (of woman) to surrender

Exodus 19:5-6

(5) Now then, if you will obey Me faithfully and keep My covenant, you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples. Indeed, all the earth is Mine, (6) but you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the children of Israel."

שמות י"ט:ה-ו'

(ה) וְעַתָּה אִם־שָׁמְעוּ תִשְׁמְעוּ בְּקִלִּי
וְשָׁמַרְתֶּם אֶת־בְּרִיתִי וְהָיִיתֶם לִי סֻגָּלָה
מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים כִּי־לִי כָּל־הָאָרֶץ: (ו) וְאַתֶּם
תִּהְיוּ־לִי מַמְלַכְת פְּהָנִים וְגוֹי קְדוֹשׁ אֵלֶּה
הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר תִּדְבַּר אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

Exodus 20:15-16

(15) All the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the blare of the horn and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they fell back and stood at a distance. (16) "You speak to us," they said to Moses, "and we will obey; but let not God speak to us, lest we die."

שמות כ':ט"ו-ט"ז

(טו) וְכָל־הָעָם רָאוּ אֶת־הַקּוֹלֹת
וְאֶת־הַלְפִידִם וְאֵת קוֹל הַשֹּׁפָר וְאֶת־הַהָר
עֹשֵׂן וַיֵּרָא הָעָם וַיִּנָּעוּ וַיַּעֲמְדוּ מֵרָחֵק: (טז)
וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה דַּבֵּר־אַתָּה עִמָּנוּ
וְנִשְׁמָעָה וְאַל־יְדַבֵּר עִמָּנוּ אֱלֹהִים פֶּן־נָמוּת:

Exodus 24:7

(7) Then he took the record of the covenant and read it aloud to the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will faithfully do!"

שמות כ"ד:ז'

(ז) וַיִּקַּח סֵפֶר הַבְּרִית וַיִּקְרָא בְּאָזְנֵי הָעָם
וַיֹּאמְרוּ כָּל אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר יְהוָה נַעֲשֶׂה וְנִשְׁמָע: