

Jeremiah 23:23-29 (NLT)

Am I a God who is only close at hand?" says the LORD. "No, I am far away at the same time. ²⁴Can anyone hide from me in a secret place? Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?" says the LORD.

²⁵"I have heard these prophets say, 'Listen to the dream I had from God last night.' And then they proceed to tell lies in my name. ²⁶How long will this go on? If they are prophets, they are prophets of deceit, inventing everything they say. ²⁷By telling these false dreams, they are trying to get my people to forget me, just as their ancestors did by worshiping the idols of Baal.

²⁸"Let these false prophets tell their dreams, but let my true messengers faithfully proclaim my every word. There is a difference between straw and grain! ²⁹Does not my word burn like fire?" says the LORD. "Is it not like a mighty hammer that smashes a rock to pieces?"

For Reflection and Prayer:

Listening with the "ear of your heart", was there a word, phrase or image which caught your attention you as you listened to or slowly read the text? Gently repeat the word or phrase, giving it room to settle deeply in your heart.

Reflect on what you heard. Relish the words. You might choose to journal about what you heard.

Respond to what you heard and reflected on in your prayer with God. Is there a prayer of praise, thanksgiving or petition which rises within you?

Rest in God as you simply be with God in the quiet.

Jeremiah 23:23-29 (TMG)

“Am I not a God near at hand”—GOD’s Decree—“and not a God far off? Can anyone hide out in a corner where I can’t see him?” GOD’s Decree. “Am I not present everywhere, whether seen or unseen?” GOD’s Decree.

²⁵⁻²⁷ “I know what they’re saying, all these prophets who preach lies using me as their text, saying ‘I had this dream! I had this dream!’ How long do I have to put up with this? Do these prophets give two cents about me as they preach their lies and spew out their grandiose delusions? They swap dreams with one another, feed on each other’s delusive dreams, trying to distract my people from me just as their ancestors were distracted by the no-god Baal.

²⁸⁻²⁹ “You prophets who do nothing but dream—go ahead and tell your silly dreams. But you prophets who have a message from me—tell it truly and faithfully. What does straw have in common with wheat? Nothing else is like GOD’s Decree. Isn’t my Message like fire?” GOD’s Decree. “Isn’t it like a sledgehammer busting a rock?”