

2 Chronicles 6:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now, my God, let, I beseech thee, thine eyes be open, and let thine ears be attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

Analysis

Solomon's plea concludes: 'Now, my God, let, I beseech thee, thine eyes be open, and let thine ears be attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.' The anthropomorphic language (eyes open, ears attentive) depicts God's active engagement with His people's prayers offered at the temple. This established the temple as the earthly locus where prayers were directed toward God's heavenly throne. Yet Jesus's teaching to the Samaritan woman (John 4:21-24) transcends location - true worshipers worship in spirit and truth, not at specific geographic sites. Christ Himself becomes the 'place' where believers approach God, the true temple mediating access to the Father.

Historical Context

This request (c. 960 BCE) shaped Jewish prayer practice - even when unable to be physically present at the temple (like Daniel in exile), the faithful prayed toward Jerusalem (Daniel 6:10), trusting God's attention to prayers oriented toward His house.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Christ as the true temple change where and how you approach God in prayer?
2. What confidence does it give you that God's eyes are open and ears attentive to your prayers offered 'in Jesus's name'?

Interlinear Text

עַתָּה	אֲלֵה י	יְהוָה	נָא	עֵינֶיךָ	פָּתַח אוֹת
H6258	Now my God	H1961	H4994	let I beseech thee thine eyes	be open
	H430			H5869	H6605
וְאָזְנֶיךָ	קָשָׁב אוֹת	לְתַפִּלַּת	הַמָּקוֹם	הַזֶּה:	
and let thine ears	be attent	unto the prayer	that is made in this place		H2088
H241	H7183	H8605	H4725		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 116:2 (Parallel theme): Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

2 Chronicles 7:15 (Prayer): Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

Psalms 17:1 (Prayer): Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips.

Nehemiah 1:6 (Prayer): Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.

Nehemiah 1:11 (Prayer): O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.

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