

Deuteronomy 29:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day.

Analysis

Yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day. Despite witnessing unprecedented miracles, Israel lacked spiritual understanding - they saw physically but not spiritually. This reveals that external evidence alone cannot produce genuine faith; internal illumination is required.

The threefold description - heart to perceive, eyes to see, ears to hear - emphasizes comprehensive spiritual blindness. Heart represents understanding, eyes represent insight, ears represent receptivity. Israel possessed all physically but lacked them spiritually.

The statement the LORD hath not given indicates that spiritual perception is divine gift, not human achievement. People cannot generate spiritual understanding through intellect or observation alone; God must grant illumination.

This anticipates New Covenant promise - I will give them a heart to know me (Jeremiah 24:7). Only divine action can cure human spiritual blindness and deafness.

Historical Context

Despite seeing plagues, Red Sea crossing, manna, and God's glory on Sinai, Israel repeatedly doubted and rebelled. External miracles without internal

transformation do not produce lasting faithfulness.

This explains why the exodus generation died in the wilderness - they saw but did not truly perceive, heard but did not truly understand.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does spiritual blindness despite physical sight teach about faith's source?
2. How does this show that external evidence alone cannot produce genuine faith?
3. Why must God give spiritual perception rather than humans achieving it?
4. What is the difference between physical seeing/hearing and spiritual perception?
5. How does the New Covenant promise of new hearts address this problem?

Interlinear Text

וְעַיְן אֶם לְדֹעַת לְבָבְךָ מִתְּנִתְּנָה יְהִי הָרָאָה
H3808 hath not given H5414 Yet the LORD H3068 H0 H3820 H3045 H5869
and eyes

לְרֹא וְתַּחֲזִק אֶמְעָן עַד לְשָׁמֶן עַד וְתַּחֲזִק אֶמְעָן
H7200 H241 H5704 H8085 H3117 H2088
to see and ears to hear unto this day

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 4:18 (Parallel theme): Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

Proverbs 20:12 (References Lord): The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.

John 8:43 (Parallel theme): Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.

Isaiah 63:17 (References Lord): O LORD, why hast thou made us to err from thy ways, and hardened our heart from thy fear? Return for thy servants' sake, the tribes of thine inheritance.

2 Corinthians 3:15 (Parallel theme): But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.

Deuteronomy 2:30 (References Lord): But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for the LORD thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day.

Ezekiel 36:26 (Parallel theme): A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.