

Ezekiel 40:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the man said unto me, Son of man, behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears, and set thine heart upon all that I shall shew thee; for to the intent that I might shew them unto thee art thou brought hither: declare all that thou seest to the house of Israel.

Analysis

This commissioning parallels Moses' tabernacle instructions—'behold... hear... set thine heart'—engaging sight, hearing, and understanding. The threefold command emphasizes comprehensive attention to divine revelation. The Hebrew שִׁים לִבְךָ (sim libekha, 'set thine heart') means more than casual observation; it demands focused meditation and internalization. The purpose clause reveals God's intent: Ezekiel must 'declare all that thou seest to the house of Israel.' This is revelatory worship—God shows, the prophet proclaims, the people respond. The vision isn't merely for Ezekiel's private edification but for covenant community instruction. Reformed theology emphasizes that God's Word must be declared faithfully—nothing added, nothing subtracted (Deuteronomy 4:2, Revelation 22:18-19). The phrase 'for to the intent' shows God's purposeful pedagogy; He teaches through visual revelation before verbal proclamation.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern temple construction followed divine blueprints—Egyptian and Mesopotamian texts describe gods providing architectural plans. However, Ezekiel's vision uniquely emphasizes prophetic proclamation of what was seen. Unlike pagan temples built primarily for deity residence, Israel's temple served

didactic purposes—teaching God's holiness, humanity's need for mediation, and covenantal relationship. The command to 'declare... to the house of Israel' addressed exiles who had abandoned proper worship. They needed detailed instruction for future restoration. Whether this vision describes a literal millennial temple, an idealized second temple, or symbolizes spiritual realities, the imperative remains: God's people must worship according to His revealed will, not human tradition or innovation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How seriously do you 'set your heart' on what God reveals in His Word, or do you read casually without deep meditation?
2. What responsibility do those who receive biblical insight bear toward declaring it to God's people?
3. How does this verse challenge selective proclamation—sharing only comfortable truths while avoiding difficult ones?

Interlinear Text

רָאָה	אֶדָם	בֶּן	הָאִישׁ	אֵלַי	וַיֹּדֶבֶר	רָאָה
	of man	unto me	And the man	said		
	H120	H1121	H376	H413	H1696	H7200
אֲשֶׁר	לְךָ	לִבְךָ	וְשָׁמַעְתָּ	וּבְאָזְנוֹ	בְּעֵינַיִךְ	אֲשֶׁר
	thine heart	and hear	with thine ears	with thine eyes		
	H3605	H8085	H241	H5869		H834
לְמַעַן	כִּי	אוֹתָךְ	רָאָה	אֲנִי		רָאָה
thee for to the intent			all that thou seest			all that thou seest
H4616		H853	H7200	H589		H7200
אֲשֶׁר	כָּל	אֶת	הִגֵּד	הַנָּה	הֵבָאֲתָה	אֲשֶׁר
	hither declare		them unto thee art thou brought			
	H5046	H853	H935			
יִשְׂרָאֵל:	לְבֵית	רָאָה	אֶת			יִשְׂרָאֵל:
of Israel	to the house	all that thou seest				of Israel
H3478	H1004	H7200				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 44:5 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto me, Son of man, mark well, and behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears all that I say unto thee concerning all the ordinances of the house of the LORD, and all the laws thereof; and mark well the entering in of the house, with every going forth of the sanctuary.

Jeremiah 26:2 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word:

Matthew 10:27 (Parallel theme): What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.

Ezekiel 43:10 (References Israel): Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern.

Matthew 13:9 (Parallel theme): Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Ezekiel 3:17 (References Israel): Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

Ezekiel 2:1 (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.

Isaiah 21:10 (References Israel): O my threshing, and the corn of my floor: that which I have heard of the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have I declared unto you.

Acts 20:27 (Parallel theme): For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

1 Corinthians 11:23 (Parallel theme): For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: