

Ezekiel 44:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

God commands: '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 mark well the entering in of the house'—comprehensive attention required. The Hebrew **שִׁמְלָה** (sim lev, 'mark well'—literally 'set heart') demands focused concentration. The threefold emphasis—mark well, behold, hear—engages complete attention. God's ordinances (**חֻקָּתָה**, chuqqot) aren't suggestions but binding regulations. The specific attention to 'entering in' stresses proper access protocols. Reformed theology emphasizes that God's Word requires careful, comprehensive attention—not casual skimming (Deuteronomy 6:6-9, Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:2). The command to 'mark well' challenges superficial Bible study that misses crucial details.

Historical Context

Moses similarly commanded careful attention to God's law (Deuteronomy 4:1, 5:1, 6:4). Prophets frequently addressed inattention to divine instruction (Isaiah 1:2-3, Jeremiah 7:2, Ezekiel 3:10). The exiles' catastrophe resulted from ignoring God's Word—they 'refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears' (Zechariah 7:11-12). The detailed ordinances governing temple access,

worship, and service required careful transmission and observance. Ezra's post-exilic ministry emphasized reading and explaining the law (Nehemiah 8:1-8). Jesus rebuked disciples who had eyes but didn't see, ears but didn't hear (Mark 8:18). The early church 'continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine' (Acts 2:42), demonstrating sustained attention to authoritative teaching.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How carefully do you 'mark well' Scripture versus scanning quickly without deep engagement?
2. What percentage of your Bible reading actually engages eyes (reading), ears (hearing), and heart (applying)?
3. Do you pay particular attention to 'entering in'—how you approach God—or assume all approaches are equally acceptable?

Interlinear Text

לברך ישਮת אד מ בון יהה אל לו אמר

said H413 **And the LORD** **unto me Son** **of man** **mark** **well**

H559 H3068 H1121 H120 H7760 H3820

וְרָא הָבָעִין יְהוָה וְבָאָזְנָה יְהוָה אֶת שְׁמָה עַל כָּל אֲשֶׁר רָא

and behold with thine eyes with thine ears and hear H853 H3605 H834

H7200 H5869 H241 H8085

אַנְיָם מִדְבָּר אֶתְרָן לְכָל תְּקֵנָה וְתַּעֲשֵׂה
H589 all that I say H853 H3605 unto thee concerning all the ordinances

לְבָבָה	וְשָׁמֶת	תּוֹרַת	וְלֹכֶל	הִנֵּה	בְּבָבָה	וְתָבִיב
of the house	And the LORD	H3605	and all the laws	mark	well	
לְבָבָה	וְשָׁמֶת	תּוֹרַת	וְלֹכֶל	הִנֵּה	בְּבָבָה	וְתָבִיב

וְמִלְחָדָשׁ	מִזְבֵּחַ	בְּכָל	הַבָּיִת	לְמִבְּרָא
the entering in	of the house	H3605	with every going forth	of the sanctuary

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 40:4 (Parallel theme): 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.

Deuteronomy 12:32 (Parallel theme): What thing soever I command you, observe to do it; thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Deuteronomy 32:46 (Word): And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law.