

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 לִבְיָם לָמַד (sim lev, 'mark well'—literally 'set heart') demands focused concentration. The threefold emphasis—mark well, behold, hear—engages complete attention. God's ordinances (חֻקִּים, 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

לֵבָבִי	וְשָׁמַתִּי	אֶדְמוּ	בֶּן־	יְהוָה	אֵלַי	וַיֹּאמֶר
well	mark	of man	unto me Son	And the LORD	said	
H3820	H7760	H120	H1121	H3068	H413	H559
אֲשֶׁר	כָּל־	אֵת	שְׁמָע	וּבָאֲזֵן־יָךְ	בְּעֵינֶיךָ	וְרָאֵה
	and hear		with thine eyes	with thine ears	and behold	
H834	H3605	H853	H8085	H241	H5869	H7200
חֹקֹת	וְעַתָּה	לְכָל־	אֶת־	מִדְבָּרִי	אֲנִי	
unto thee concerning all the ordinances			all that I say			
H2708		H3605	H853	H1696	H589	
לֵבָבִי	וְשָׁמַתִּי	תּוֹרֹתַי	וְלִכְלֹל־	יְהוָה	הַבַּיִת	וְאֵת
well	mark	and all the laws		And the LORD	of the house	
H3820	H7760	H8451	H3605	H3068	H1004	
הַמִּקְדָּשׁ	מִצֵּאתִי	בְּכָל־	הַבַּיִת	לְמַבֵּן	וְאֵת	
of the sanctuary	with every going forth		of the house	the entering in		
H4720	H4161	H3605	H1004	H3996		

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.