

Jeremiah 6:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it.

Analysis

Jeremiah's question reveals his prophetic dilemma: he has a message to deliver, but the audience is spiritually incapable of receiving it. The phrase 'their ear is uncircumcised' employs covenant language—just as physical circumcision marked covenant membership, an uncircumcised ear indicates spiritual inability to hear God's word (cf. Acts 7:51). The description of God's word as 'a reproach; they have no delight in it' demonstrates natural hostility to divine truth. This reflects the Reformed doctrine of total depravity: apart from regenerating grace, sinners cannot truly hear and receive God's word with faith and obedience.

Historical Context

Despite Jeremiah's faithful ministry spanning four decades, Judah largely rejected his message. This hardening of hearts parallels Isaiah's commission (Isaiah 6:9-10) and illustrates the spiritual deafness prophets encountered.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the concept of spiritual hearing differ from merely processing the words of Scripture intellectually?
2. What does this verse teach about the necessity of the Holy Spirit's work in making people receptive to God's word?
3. How should preachers respond when their message is consistently rejected or finds no delight in hearers?

Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

Acts 7:51 (Parallel theme): Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

Jeremiah 7:26 (Parallel theme): Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers.

John 7:7 (Parallel theme): The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

Hebrews 11:7 (Parallel theme): By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Isaiah 53:1 (References Lord): Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

Exodus 6:12 (References Lord): And Moses spake before the LORD, saying, Behold, the children of Israel have not hearkened unto me; how then shall Pharaoh hear me, who am of uncircumcised lips?

Acts 7:60 (References Lord): And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Colossians 1:28 (Parallel theme): Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

Psalms 119:70 (Word): Their heart is as fat as grease; but I delight in thy law.

Psalms 119:77 (Word): Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight.