

The Doctrine of Ears

1. Here is a summary of the attitude of the Israelites throughout the centuries to the ministry of the prophets as they preached faith, piety, and justice. They often closed their ears. Closing the ear was often used metaphorically to describe negative volition to the Word of God.

2. God's message was faithfully delivered [through the energizing Spirit] by the hands, hearts, and mouths of his servants, the prophets (2Ch 36:16).

2Ch 36:16 But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the LORD was aroused against his people and there was no remedy.

2Ch 36:17 He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and spared neither young man nor young woman, old man or aged. God handed all of them over to Nebuchadnezzar.

2Ch 36:18 He carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the LORD'S temple and the treasures of the king and his officials.

2Ch 36:19 They set fire to God's temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there.

2Ch 36:20 He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power.

2Ch 36:21 The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah.

3. God urges the people of Israel to open up their ears and concentrate on doctrine in order to avoid another bout with national discipline.

4. The use of stopping up their ears is a familiar metaphor.

4.1 The organ of hearing, the ear, is our guarantee of God's ability to hear.

Psa 94:9 Does He who implanted the ear not hear? Does He who formed the eye not see?

4.2 The application of the blood on the right ear of the priest, at his consecration would seem to communicate the need for a reception of doctrine by the priest who in turn must communicate the same to the positive Israelites who showed up.

4.2.1 This ceremony, given their identification with the house of the Lord, set the priests aside for dedicated service.

Exo 29:19 "Take the other ram, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on its head.
Exo 29:20 Slaughter it, take some of its blood and put it on the lobes of the right ears of Aaron and his sons, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. Then sprinkle blood against the altar on all sides.

4.2.2 The sprinkling of the blood and oil on the leper who was healed speaks of a spiritual healing of a unique disease to Israel. Leprosy came upon Israel because they rejected God's protocol.

Lev 14:11 The priest who pronounces him clean shall present both the one to be cleansed and his offerings before the LORD at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.

Lev 14:12 "Then the priest is to take one of the male lambs and offer it as a guilt offering, along with the log of oil; he shall wave them before the LORD as a wave offering.

Lev 14:13 He is to slaughter the lamb in the holy place where the sin offering and the burnt offering are slaughtered. Like the sin offering, the guilt offering belongs to the priest; it is most holy.

Lev 14:14 The priest is to take some of the blood of the guilt offering and put it on the lobe of the right ear of the one to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot.

4.2.3 The blood on the ear, thumb and big toe again serves to show total identification with the blood of the Messiah to come.

4.2.4 His work is taught and emphasized.

4.2.5 Many believe the ear represents the hearing of the Word, and the action of the body follows. Ergo, the thumb and toe are representative of the entire body. Our Lord said, "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he." Note: first the ear and then thought and action follow. We must know before we can "do."

4.2.6 Another way of illustrating "**As a man thinketh in his heart so is he.**"

Lev 14:14 The priest is to take some of the blood of the guilt offering and put it on the lobe of the right ear of the one to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot.

Lev 8:23 Moses slaughtered the ram and took some of its blood and put it on the lobe of Aaron's right ear, on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot.

4.3 Figuratively, it speaks of spiritual understanding in Isa 50:4-5; certainly as compared with Jer 6:10.

Isa 50:4 The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.

Isa 50:5 The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back.

Jer 6:10 To whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to me? Their ears are closed so they cannot hear. The word of the LORD is offensive to them; they find no pleasure in it.

4.4 The ear is used as a metaphor for the function of God's grace in providing doctrine to those who want it.

4.4.1 It also speaks of the benefit to those who are positive.

Pro 18:15 The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge; the ears of the wise seek it out.

Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Rev 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.

Rev 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.

Rev 2:29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

4.4.2 In Rev 2:17 the hidden manna is a reference to eternal blessing; the white stone refers to our eternal perfection in heaven with Christ.

4.4.3 John defines "who is he who overcometh the world?"

1Jo 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

1Jo 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

4.5 The ear is used to describe dedication, first as it relates to the Psalmist and then as it relates to Christ.

4.5.1 Recall, we know it is a reference to Christ, for the writer of Hebrews so quotes verse six in Heb 10:5.

Psa 40:6 Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced; burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.

Heb 10:5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me;

Exo 21:6 then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life.

Deu 15:12 If a fellow Hebrew, a man or a woman, sells himself to you and serves you six years, in the seventh year you must let him go free.

Deu 15:13 And when you release him, do not send him away empty-handed.

Deu 15:14 Supply him liberally from your flock, your threshing floor and your winepress. Give to him as the LORD your God has blessed you.

Deu 15:15 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you. That is why I give you this command today.

Deu 15:16 But if your servant says to you, "I do not want to leave you," because he loves you and your family and is well off with you,

Deu 15:17 then take an awl and push it through his ear lobe into the door, and he will become your servant for life. Do the same for your maidservant.

4.6 The ear is used to describe the negative volition of Israel at the time of Jeremiah.

Jer 6:9 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Let them glean the remnant of Israel as thoroughly as a vine; pass your hand over the branches again, like one gathering grapes."

Jer 6:10 To whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to me? Their "ears" are closed so they cannot hear. The word of the LORD is offensive to them; they find no pleasure in it.

Jer 6:11 But I am full of the wrath of the LORD, and I cannot hold it in. "Pour it out on the children in the street and on the young men gathered together; both husband and wife will be caught in it, and the old, those weighed down with years.

Jer 6:12 Their houses will be turned over to others, together with their fields and their wives, when I stretch out my hand against those who live in the land," declares the LORD.

4.7 The ear is used to portray reversionism and scar tissue of the soul.

Isa 6:10 Make the heart of this people calloused; make their "ears dull" and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

Isa 6:11 Then I said, "For how long, O Lord?" And he answered: "Until the cities lie ruined and without inhabitant, until the houses are left deserted and the fields ruined and ravaged,

Isa 6:12 until the LORD has sent everyone far away and the land is utterly forsaken.

4.8 David uses the ear to show how God listens to the cries of the righteous.

Psa 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry;

Psa 34:16 the face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

Psa 34:17 The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.

Psa 34:18 The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Psa 34:19 A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all;

4.9 The ear is used to describe Israel's recovery from reversionism; ergo, they are returned to the land from Persia.

Neh 1:5 Then I said: "O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands,

Neh 1:6 "let your ear be attentive" and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you.

4.10 The ear is anthropomorphically contrasted to God and idols in several Scriptures.

Isa 59:1 Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.

Psa 135:15 The idols of the nations are silver and gold, made by the hands of men.

Psa 135:16 They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see;

Psa 135:17 they have ears, but cannot hear, nor is there breath in their mouths.