

# EARS TO HEAR, EYES TO SEE

## UNDERSTANDING WHAT IT MEANS TO SEE

*"Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding;  
which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not..."*

~ Jeremiah 5:21

### 1. "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear"

- a. One of the most popular concepts in scripture, in over a third of Bible books
- b. Jesus says it frequently - Matt 13:9, 13:43, Luke 14:35, Rev 2:7.11, 17, 29
- c. Associated often with Jesus' parables – which engenders more confusion.
- d. How do you get ears to hear? How do you get eyes to see? Wouldn't this be important?

### 2. What it Means

- a. Can be hard because the phrase itself is cryptic. Use the Bible as a dictionary.
- b. Commentaries will say it simply is Jesus saying... "Listen up! This is important."
- c. The first time it shows up is not in the NT, but in the OT → Deu 29:3-4
- d. Isaiah 29:9-12 – God closes the book; it doesn't take physical ears to hear - Isa 29:18
- e. Isaiah 44:18 – They have not known nor understood
- f. Jer 5:21 – Foolish people, without understanding... see also Jer 5:4 – the way of the Lord
- g. Jer 17:22-23 – They obeyed not, ... stiff necked... not receiving instruction
- h. Eze 12:2 – A rebellious house does not hear
- i. Jesus said they could not hear because they did not believe – John 8:43-47
- j. Hearing God's words is not just about the ears, but about believing – Rom 10:17
- k. Faith is the knowledge of God and his will, and knowing that it is true.
- l. When God says something, you understand what he is saying – Eph 5:17

### 3. God's Punishment

- a. "*ears to hear*" is often mentioned in the negative context of not hearing...
- b. Deu 8:3 – God tempted them so that they would learn to trust God's words – Jer 25:4-7
- c. The parables were not intended to ease understanding – Ps 49:3-4, Ps 78:2
- d. OT - Isaiah 6:9-11 – Isaiah sent to make them not hear and understand
- e. NT – Jesus sent to make them not hear and understand – Matt 13:9-16, John 12:37-40
- f. Mystery – Paul quotes Isaiah 6 to Israel when they don't hear his gospel – Acts 28:26-28

### 4. What We Are to Make Men See

- a. They did not see and hear under the OT – Isa 64:4
- b. They did not see and hear when Christ came for the NT – Rom 11:7-8, 2 Cor 3:14
- c. They did not see when Paul preached the mystery of God's grace – 1 Cor 2:9
- d. We are to make all men see what God is doing today – Eph 3:9
- e. To make men see means we don't speak in parables, hard sayings, or hidden gospels
- f. Having ears to hear and eyes to see is understanding God's will and walking by faith in it