

ATTENTION, ATTENTIONS

The city (of Babel) and its tower, which was being built by the descendants of Noah, got God's **attention**.

- **Genesis 11:5:** "And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded."

Joseph's brothers didn't ask him about his dream. Instead Joseph got their **attention** and told them about his dream.

- **Genesis 37:6:** "And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:"

When God told the Israelites that He would free them, but at first Pharaoh would refuse to set them free and would only let them go after God smote Egypt, the Israelites didn't pay **attention**. When Pharaoh refused to free them just as God said would happen, the Israelites immediately cursed Moses and Aaron and stopped believing that God would free them. Even Moses was surprised and upset (because he didn't pay **attention** either).

- **Exodus 5:21-22:** "And they said unto them, The LORD look upon you, and judge; because ye have made our savour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us. And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, LORD, wherefore hast thou so evil entreated this people? why is it that thou hast sent me?"

After the waters of Egypt were turned to blood, Pharaoh

didn't set his heart to that miracle. He didn't pay it any **attention**.

- **Exodus 7:23:** "And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart to this also."

We must pay close **attention** to all of the words of God.

- **Deuteronomy 11:18:** "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes."

Moses commanded the Israelites to pay close **attention** the plague of leprosy.

- **Deuteronomy 24:8:** "Take heed in the plague of leprosy, that thou observe diligently, and do according to all that the priests the Levites shall teach you: as I commanded them, so ye shall observe to do."

Those who rebel against commandments are said to not be listening to them. They're not paying them any **attention**, but are acting as if they aren't hearing them at all.

- **Joshua 1:18:** "Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage."

When Elijah faced the prophets of Baal at mount Carmel, the prophets of Baal cut themselves with knives and lancets. (It seems this was intended to get Baal's **attention**.)

- **1 Kings 18:28-29:** "And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded."

In the days of Nehemiah, the people listened carefully to the words of the law. They wanted to hear and understand it, so they paid close **attention** to it.

- **Nehemiah 8:3:** "And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law."

There was a time when Job lived as a king. He reigned over others, he was honored by many people, he was prosperous, he helped those who were in need, and he fought against the wicked. People also paid **attention** to what he said and believed him.

- **Job 29:25:** "I chose out their way, and sat chief, and dwelt as a king in the army, as one that comforteth the mourners."

We should fix our **attention** on the Lord.

- **Psalms 16:8:** "I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved."

God pays **attention** to the things we're doing.

- **Psalm 33:15:** "He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works."

We need to pay **attention** to what's said in God's law.

- **Psalm 78:1:** "Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth."

There are times when God pays special **attention** to the place where people are born.

- **Psalm 87:4:** "I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know me: behold Philistia, and Tyre, with Ethiopia; this man was born there."
- **Psalm 87:5:** "And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her."
- **Psalm 87:6:** "The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. Selah."

We must pay **attention** to doctrine.

- **Proverbs 4:2:** "For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law."

We must remain focused on what's right, and not turn our **attention** away from it.

- **Proverbs 4:25:** "Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee."

We need to pay close **attention** to what the Bible teaches about sexual immorality.

- **Proverbs 5:7-9:** "Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:"

Mankind doesn't have to search to find wisdom. Instead wisdom is crying out, trying to get mankind's **attention**.

- **Proverbs 8:4:** "Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man."

Wisdom is trying to attract people's **attention**.

- **Proverbs 8:2:** "She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths."
- **Proverbs 9:3:** "She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,"

Foolishness is competing with wisdom for **attention**.

- **Proverbs 9:14-18:** "For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city, To call passengers who go right on their ways: Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell."

People's talents capture the **attention** of those who are great and important.

- **Proverbs 18:16:** "A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men."

God commanded all those who live in the world to pay **attention** when the trumpet was blown, and listen to it.

- **Isaiah 18:3:** "All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye."

God commanded all those who live in the world to pay **attention** when an ensign was lifted up on the mountains, and look at it.

- **Isaiah 18:3:** "All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye."

After 70 years Tyre would once again try to attract the **attention** of the nations.

- **Isaiah 23:15-16:** "And it shall come to pass in that day, that Tyre shall be forgotten seventy years, according to the days of one king: after the end of seventy years shall Tyre sing as an harlot. Take an harp, go about the city, thou harlot that hast been forgotten; make sweet melody, sing many songs, that thou mayest be remembered."

God wants us to pay **attention** to the things He's done.

- **Isaiah 33:13:** "Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might."

God pays **attention** to our words. He hears people when they blaspheme Him.

- **Isaiah 37:6:** "And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say unto your master, Thus saith the LORD, Be not afraid of the words that thou hast heard, wherewith the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me."

God pays **attention** to the proverbs that are commonly used in a nation.

- **Ezekiel 18:2:** "What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?"

The nations of Israel and Judah tried to make themselves attractive to wicked and idolatrous nations. God compared their behavior to a whore who was trying to attract someone's **attention**.

- **Ezekiel 23:40:** "And furthermore, that ye have sent for men to come from far, unto whom a messenger was sent; and, lo, they came: for whom thou didst wash thyself, paintedst thy eyes, and deckedst thyself with ornaments,"

God pays **attention** to the things that nations say. He holds them accountable for their words.

- **Ezekiel 33:24:** "Son of man, they that inhabit those wastes of the land of Israel speaking, saying, Abraham was one, and he inherited the land: but we are many; the land is given us for inheritance."

God commanded Ezekiel to pay close **attention** to the way people entered and left the temple.

- **Ezekiel 44:5:** "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."

God commanded Ezekiel to pay close **attention** to the ordinances and laws of the temple.

- **Ezekiel 44:5:** "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."

Darius didn't pay **attention** to the fact that Daniel was missing when the presidents asked him to sign the law stating that no one could pray to anyone other than him.

- **Daniel 6:9:** "Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree."

Daniel paid **attention** to the numbers in prophecy, and to prophetic years.

- **Daniel 9:2:** "In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem."

This chapter repeats the fact that this vision was given in the first year of Darius. It draws **attention** to that fact.

- **Daniel 9:1-2:** "In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans; In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem."

One of the rulers in the prophecy Daniel was given will turn his **attention** to the islands.

- **Daniel 11:18:** "After this shall he turn his face unto the isles, and shall take many: but a prince for his own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease; without his own reproach he shall cause it to turn upon him."

One of the rulers in the prophecy Daniel was given will turn his **attention** back to the defenses of his own land.

- **Daniel 11:19:** "Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found."

God pays **attention** to the actions of nations. He knows what they're doing and He holds them accountable.

- **Hosea 7:1:** "When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was discovered, and the wickedness of Samaria: for they commit falsehood; and the thief cometh in, and the troop of robbers spoileth without."

We must pay **attention** the great things God has told us in His Word. He wants us to value and take heed to them, instead of rejecting or ignoring them.

- **Hosea 8:12:** "I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing."

We must pay **attention** to every single word God has said. We must let none of them slide and miss none of them, because all of them are important.

- **Matthew 4:4:** "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

When people draw **attention** to themselves when they give their gifts, and when they give for the purpose of getting people's praise, God won't reward them. The only reward they'll receive is the praise of other people (which is worthless.) God isn't honored when we publicly draw **attention** to ourselves when we give to others.

- **Matthew 6:2:** "Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in

the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward."

Those who draw **attention** to themselves when they give money are hypocrites. That's the wrong thing to do.

- **Matthew 6:2:** "Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward."

We must give money in a way that honors God, not in a way that draws **attention** to ourselves.

- **Matthew 6:4:** "That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly."

Those who draw **attention** to themselves when they pray are hypocrites.

- **Matthew 6:5:** "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward."

God doesn't want us to use our prayers to draw **attention** to ourselves.

- **Matthew 6:6:** "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into

thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

In ancient times, some people deliberately drew **attention** to themselves when they were fasting. Those people were hypocrites, and we must not follow their example.

- **Matthew 6:16:** "Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward."

When we fast, we should anoint our head and wash our face (instead of disfiguring ourselves to draw **attention** to ourselves). In other words, we should act as if everything is normal and we're not fasting at all.

- **Matthew 6:17:** "But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;"

We must fast in a way that seeks to honor God, instead of a way that draws **attention** to ourselves to win the praise of others.

- **Matthew 6:18:** "That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."

Jesus fulfilled the Messianic prophecy which said that He wouldn't try to draw **attention** to Himself.

- **Matthew 12:19:** "He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall

any man hear his voice in the streets."

Jesus told His disciples that if they wanted to be the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven then they needed to humble themselves. (They didn't pay any **attention** to this teaching until after the death and resurrection of Christ.)

- **Matthew 18:4:** "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

The triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem got the **attention** of the entire city.

- **Matthew 21:10:** "And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?"

The chief priests and elders didn't pay **attention** to the things Jesus said.

- **Matthew 21:23:** "And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?"

The scribes and Pharisees paid **attention** to very small matters in the law, but ignored much more weighty commands. They should have taken heed to *all* of the law – both the big things and the small things.

- **Matthew 23:23:** "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and

cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."

The scribes and Pharisees paid enormous **attention** to very small matters. However, they ignored extremely important things.

- **Matthew 23:24:** "Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel."

Jesus commands us to pay **attention** to end-times prophecy. We need to study it and understand it so we're not deceived.

- **Matthew 24:4:** "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you."
- **Mark 13:5:** "And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you:"

Jesus wants Christians to understand prophecy, to pay **attention** to it, to know the signs of His return, and to be watching for His return. He didn't tell us to ignore this subject, and He didn't say it was irrelevant or a distraction.

- **Matthew 25:13:** "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

There were times when Jesus tried to travel without attracting any **attention**.

- **Mark 9:30:** "And they departed thence, and passed through Galilee; and he would not that any man should

know it."

James and John didn't pay any **attention** to what Jesus told him about His upcoming death. Instead they ignored it and asked Jesus to grant him a favor.

- **Mark 10:35:** "And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire."

Jesus didn't believe end-times prophecy was a distraction from more important things. Instead He taught it was something we must understand and pay **attention** to.

- **Mark 13:23:** "But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things."

One of the reasons the birth of John the Baptist was widely known was because Zacharias couldn't speak until he named his son John. That got people's **attention**.

- **Luke 1:63-65:** "And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all. And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God. And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea."

The events surrounding the birth of John the Baptist drew **attention** to him.

- **Luke 1:66:** "And all they that heard them laid them up in

their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be!
And the hand of the Lord was with him."

Jesus visited Jerusalem as an infant, but He attracted no widespread **attention**. Even though He was the Messiah, and His birth had been announced by a multitude of angels just eight days earlier, the religious leaders didn't care and had no interest in it.

- **Luke 2:22:** "And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;"

Even though the birth of Jesus was announced by a multitude of angels, and even though Anna spread the news within the temple itself, it seems no one paid **attention**. (When the Gentile wise men appeared two years later looking for the Messiah, the people of Jerusalem had no idea what they were talking about.)

- **Luke 2:38:** "And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spoke of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem."

Jesus called **attention** to the poor widow who cast two mites into the temple treasury.

- **Luke 21:3:** "And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all:"

The people of Samaria (both small and great) paid **attention** to Simon the sorcerer.

- **Acts 8:9-10:** "But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God."

When the Jews in Corinth rejected the gospel, Paul said he would turn his **attention** to the Gentiles.

- **Acts 18:6:** "And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean; from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles."

God pays **attention** to our actions.

- **Romans 2:6:** "Who will render to every man according to his deeds:"

We must pay **attention** to what the Scripture says.

- **Romans 4:3:** "For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness."

Those who walk in the flesh pay **attention** to the things of the flesh and live in accordance with the things of the flesh. Their mind is on carnal things and they desire carnal things.

- **Romans 8:5:** "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."

We need to pay enough **attention** to other people's lives to notice if they're overtaken in a fault. We must not ignore those around us.

- **Galatians 6:1:** "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

Paul didn't want to give any **attention** to his old life. Instead he wanted to focus on the race that was still ahead of him.

- **Philippians 3:13:** "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,"

Women should seek to draw **attention** to themselves through good deeds, not costly outfits.

- **1 Timothy 2:9-10:** "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

Those who pay **attention** to things that are profane and vain will become increasingly ungodly.

- **2 Timothy 2:16:** "But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness."

God wants us to pay **attention** to the things He's revealed in His Word.

- **Hebrews 2:1:** "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip."

Mankind is very small. We're so small that we have nothing which would merit God's **attention**. It's an act of great mercy and love that God notices or regards us at all.

- **Hebrews 2:6:** "But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him?"

Those who are in positions of authority in the church, who have lived righteous lives of faith, will bear fruit. The rest of the church should pay **attention** to their godly example and strive to live that same kind of life so they can also bear good fruit.

- **Hebrews 13:7:** "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation."

Peter commanded the church to pay close **attention** to Bible prophecy, and to study it and remember it. He didn't say that prophecy was a distraction and should be ignored.

- **2 Peter 3:2:** "That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:"

In ancient times there were holy prophets that spoke the message of God. The church must pay close **attention** to what they said, and remember their words. (God wants people to pay attention to prophecy, and take it seriously.)

- **2 Peter 3:2:** "That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:"

God wants people to read the book of Revelation and pay close **attention** to it. He also wants people to know what's written in it and to do what it says.

- **Revelation 1:3:** "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."

Jesus commanded Christians to listen to what He had to say to the seven churches. He wanted them to pay **attention** to the contents of these letters and take them to heart.

- **Revelation 2:29:** "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."
- **Revelation 3:6:** "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."
- **Revelation 3:22:** "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

Christians need to pay **attention** to end-times prophecy. It's important.

- **Revelation 13:9:** "If any man have an ear, let him hear."

God wants people to pay **attention** to the number of the beast (the antichrist), as this will identify him.

- **Revelation 13:18:** "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."

God wants us to know what's written in the book of Revelation. He wants us to believe it and pay **attention** to it.

- **Revelation 22:6:** "And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done."

The book of Revelation isn't irrelevant, and it's not a distraction. It contains material that Jesus wanted us to have, and that Jesus wanted us to pay **attention** to and believe.

- **Revelation 22:7:** "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."

God wants us to learn what the book of Revelation says and pay **attention** to it.

- **Revelation 22:9:** "Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God."

Jesus wants us to pay **attention** to end-times prophecy.

- **Revelation 22:16:** "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."