

~DEAFNESS (233)

[Hebrew, *che-resh'*, deaf one]

- **Partial or complete inability to hear, often caused by disease, accident, or loud noise, either intense and sudden or prolonged. In some cases persons are born deaf. Another cause of deafness mentioned in the Bible is demon possession.**
- Jesus, now noticing that a crowd was running together upon them, rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it; You **speechless and deaf spirit**, I order you, get out of him and enter into him no more. (**Mark 9:25**)
- And after crying out and going through many convulsions it got out, and he became as dead, so that the greater number of them were saying; He is dead! (**Mark 9:26**)
- But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him up, and he rose. (**Mark 9:27**)
- So after he entered into a house his disciples proceeded to ask him privately; Why could we not expel it? (**Mark 9:28**)
- And he said to them; This kind cannot get out by anything except by prayer. (**Mark 9:29**)
- The root of the Hebrew term *che-resh'*, deaf one.
- At that time the eyes of the blind ones will be opened, and the very ears of the deaf ones will be unstopped. (**Isaiah 35:5**)
- Refers to either **deafness** on the part of the object or silence on the part of the subject and is variously rendered be, or become, **deaf** and keep silent.
- To you, O Yehowah, I keep calling. O my Rock, do not be **deaf** to me, that you may not keep still toward me And I do not have to become like those going down to the pit. (**Psalms 28:1**)
- You have seen, O Yehowah. Do not keep silent. O Yehowah, do not keep yourself far from me. (**Psalms 35:22**) **Footnote**

- Our God will come and cannot possibly keep silent. Before him there devours a fire, and all around him it has become exceedingly stormy weather. (**Psalms 50:3**) Footnote
- Nations will see and become ashamed of all their mightiness. They will put their hand upon their mouth, their very ears will become deaf. (**Micah 7:16**)
- Yehowah, the Creator of the ear
- The hearing ear and the seeing eye, Yehowah himself has made even both of them. (**Proverbs 20:12**)
- Required his people to show consideration for the **deaf**. The Israelites were not to ridicule or call down evil upon **deaf** persons, for the **deaf** could not defend themselves against statements they could not hear.
- You must not call down evil upon a **deaf** man, and before a blind man you must not put an obstacle, and you must be in fear of your God. I am Yehowah. (**Leviticus 19:14**)
- As for me, like someone **deaf**, I would not listen, and like someone speechless, I would not open my mouth. (**Psalms 38:13**)
- And I came to be like a man that was **not hearing**, and in my mouth there were no counterarguments. (**Psalms 38:14**)
- The words at;
- At that Yehowah said to him; Who appointed a mouth for man or who appoints the speechless or the **deaf** or the clear-sighted or the blind? Is it not I, Yehowah? (**Exodus 4:11**)
- Where Yehowah refers to himself as appointing the **deaf**, do not mean that he is responsible for all cases of **deafness**. However, Yehowah can cause a person to become literally **deaf**, unable to speak, or blind for a particular reason or purpose.
- The father of John the Baptizer was temporarily made speechless because of not believing.
- And Zechariah said to the angel; How am I to be sure of this?

For I am aged and my wife is well along in years. (Luke 1:18)

- In reply the angel said to him; I am Gabriel, who stands near before God, and I was sent forth to speak with you and declare the Good News of these things to you. (Luke 1:19)
- But, look! You **will be silent** and **not able to speak** until the day that these things take place, **because you did not believe** my words, which will be fulfilled in their appointed time. (Luke 1:20)
- Meanwhile the people continued waiting for Zechariah, and they began to wonder at his delaying in the sanctuary. (Luke 1:21)
- But when he came out he was not able to speak to them, and they perceived that he had just seen a supernatural sight in the sanctuary, and he kept making signs to them, but remained dumb. (Luke 1:22)
- Then they went asking its father by signs what he wanted it to be called. (Luke 1:62)
- And he asked for a tablet and wrote, John is its name. At this they all marveled. (Luke 1:63)
- **Instantly his mouth was opened** and his **tongue loosed** and he began to speak, blessing God. (Luke 1:64)
- God can also appoint persons to be **spiritually deaf** by allowing them to remain in that state if they so choose.
- And he went on to say; Go, and you must say to this people, Hear again and again, O men, but do not understand, and see again and again, but do not get any knowledge. (Isaiah 6:9)
- Make the heart of this people **unreceptive**, and make their very ears unresponsive, and paste their very eyes together, that they may not see with their eyes and **with their ears they may not hear**, and that their own heart may not understand and that they may not actually turn back and get healing for themselves. (Isaiah 6:10)
- Jesus Christ, during his ministry, demonstrated miraculous curative powers by restoring the **hearing** of physically **deaf** individuals on several occasions.

- The blind are seeing again, and the lame are walking about, the lepers are being cleansed and the **deaf** are hearing, and the dead are being raised up, and the poor are having the Good News declared to them. (**Matthew 11:5**)
- Here they brought him a man **deaf** and with a speech impediment, and they entreated him to lay his hand upon him. (**Mark 7:32**)
- And he took him away from the crowd privately and put his fingers into the man's ears and, after spitting, he touched his tongue. (**Mark 7:33**)
- And with a look up into heaven he sighed deeply and said to him; Ephphatha, that is, **Be opened**. (**Mark 7:34**)
- Well, his hearing powers were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he began speaking normally. (**Mark 7:35**)
- With that he charged them not to tell anyone, but the more he would charge them, that much more they would proclaim it. (**Mark 7:36**)
- Indeed, they were being astounded in a most extraordinary way and they said; He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the speechless speak. (**Mark 7:37**)
- Hence in answer he said to the two; Go your way, report to John what you saw and heard. The blind are receiving sight, the lame are walking, the lepers are being cleansed and the **deaf** are hearing, the dead are being raised up, the poor are being told the Good News. (**Luke 7:22**)
- This makes certain that under his rulership over the earth all afflictions, including **deafness**, will be eliminated.
- The psalmist compared the wicked, who refuse to listen to direction, to a cobra that makes itself **deaf** to the voice of charmers.
- The wicked ones have been perverts from the womb, they have wandered about from the belly onward, they are speaking lies. (**Psalms 58:3**)

- The venom of theirs is like the venom of the serpent, **deaf** like the cobra that stops up its ear. (**Psalms 58:4**)
- That will not listen to the voice of charmers, though someone wise is binding with spells. (**Psalms 58:5**)
- Similarly, in Isaiah's day, the Israelites, although having ears, were as though **deaf** because of being slow to listen and respond to Yehowah's word.
- Hear, you **deaf** ones, and look forth to see, you blind ones. (**Isaiah 42:18**)
- Who is blind, if not my servant, and who is **deaf** as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as the one rewarded, or blind as the servant of Yehowah? (**Isaiah 42:19**)
- It was a case of seeing many things, but you did not keep watching. It was a case of **opening the ears**, but you did **not keep listening**. (**Isaiah 42:20**)
- Bring forth a people blind though eyes themselves exist, and the ones **deaf though they have ears**. (**Isaiah 43:8**)
- However, after the foretold restoration from exile, God's people would cease to be **deaf spiritually**. They would hear the word of Yehowah, that is, pay attention to it.
- And in that day the **deaf** ones **will certainly hear the words of the book**, and out of the gloom and out of the darkness even the eyes of the blind ones will see. (**Isaiah 29:18**)
- At that time the eyes of the blind ones will be opened, and the very **ears** of the **deaf ones will be unstopped**. (**Isaiah 35:5**)
- Jesus Christ, while on earth, opened many **ears** of understanding, enabling the cured ones to act upon what they heard.
- However, happy are your eyes because they behold, and your ears because they **hear**. (**Matthew 13:16**)
- As for the one sown upon the fine soil, this is the one hearing the word and getting the sense of it, who really does bear fruit and produces, this one a hundredfold, that one sixty, the other thirty.

(Matthew 13:23)