

Isaiah 28:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For his God doth instruct him to discretion, and doth teach him.

Analysis

For his God doth instruct him to discretion, and doth teach him. This verse provides the theological key to the farming parable. The farmer's wisdom comes from God: **his God doth instruct him to discretion** (viyassirehu lamishpat Elohav yorennu, וַיַּסְרֵהוּ לַמִּשְׁפָּט אֱלֹהָיו יוֹרֵנְנוּ, and He instructs him in right judgment, his God teaches him). Yassar (יָסַר) means instruct, discipline, teach. Mishpat (מִשְׁפָּט) is judgment, discernment, right decision-making. Yarah (יָרָה) means direct, teach, instruct—the root for Torah (teaching/law).

If God teaches farmers agricultural wisdom (when to plow, plant, harvest; how to treat different crops), how much more does God know spiritual agriculture! His varied dealings with people aren't arbitrary but reflect perfect wisdom. He instructs some through suffering, others through blessing; some need breaking, others gentle nurture. Romans 11:33 declares, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!" James 1:5 promises wisdom to those who ask. The farmer's God-given discretion regarding seeds illustrates God's infinitely greater discretion regarding souls.

Historical Context

Ancient cultures recognized farming wisdom as divine gift. Egyptians credited gods with teaching agriculture. Greeks honored Demeter. Israelites knew Yahweh gave agricultural blessings (Deuteronomy 11:13-15) and wisdom. Genesis 1:28-29 shows God instructing humans about cultivation. Jesus's parables assume farming

knowledge reflects spiritual truth. Paul applies this verse literally to ministerial support (1 Corinthians 9:9-10) but broader principle applies: God's wisdom permeates creation, teaching both natural and spiritual realities. Studying how God designed nature reveals how He works grace.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that even farmers' wisdom comes from God increase your awe of His comprehensive knowledge?
2. What does God's teaching farmers 'discretion' about seeds reveal about His wisdom in treating people individually?
3. How should this verse encourage you to trust God's varied methods in your life, even when His ways seem strange?

Interlinear Text

וְיִסֵּר וְ	לְמִשְׁפָּט ט	אֱלֹהֵי יו	יִרְנֶנּוּ:
doth instruct	him to discretion	For his God	and doth teach
H3256	H4941	H430	H3384

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 36:2 (Parallel theme): And Moses called Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, even every one whose heart stirred him up to come unto the work to do it:

Psalms 144:1 (Parallel theme): Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight:

Job 35:11 (Parallel theme): Who teacheth us more than the beasts of the earth, and maketh us wiser than the fowls of heaven?

Job 39:17 (References God): Because God hath deprived her of wisdom, neither hath he imparted to her understanding.

Exodus 28:3 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

James 1:17 (Parallel theme): Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Daniel 1:17 (References God): As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.