

Isaiah 28:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the fitches are not threshed with a threshing instrument, neither is a cart wheel turned about upon the cummin; but the fitches are beaten out with a staff, and the cummin with a rod.

Analysis

For the fitches are not threshed with a threshing instrument, neither is a cart wheel turned about upon the cummin; but the fitches are beaten out with a staff, and the cummin with a rod. The parable continues to threshing—separating grain from chaff. Different crops require different threshing methods. **Fitches are not threshed with a threshing instrument** (ki lo becherutz yudash getsach, כִּי לֹא בְחֶרֶץ יוּדָשׁ קֶצֶחַ, for black cummin is not threshed with a threshing sledge). A charutz (חֶרֶץ) was heavy sledge with stones/metal for crushing wheat. Using it on delicate fitches/black cummin would destroy them. **Neither is a cart wheel turned about upon the cummin** (ve-ofan agalah al-kammon yusav, וְאוֹפֵן אֶגְלָה עַל־כַּמְּוֹן יוֹסֵב, nor is wagon wheel turned on cummin)—too heavy for this delicate spice.

Instead: **fitches are beaten out with a staff, and the cummin with a rod** (ki bematteh yechabbet getsach ve-kammon bashebet, כִּי בַמַּטֶּה יַחְבֵּט קֶצֶחַ וְכַמְּוֹן בַּשֶּׁבֶט, but with staff is beaten fitches and cummin with rod). Gentle beating releases seeds without crushing. Applied spiritually: God calibrates discipline to each person's capacity. Delicate souls receive gentle correction (staff/rod); harder cases need heavier threshing (sledge/wheel). He knows what we can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13). His discipline is always proportionate, never excessive (Jeremiah 30:11, 46:28).

Historical Context

Ancient threshing matched tool to crop. Heavy sledges for wheat/barley; light beating for delicate seeds. Farmers knew excessive force destroyed value. God similarly proportions trials to believers' strength. Job's testing was severe but measured (Job 1:12, 2:6—God set limits). Peter's sifting was painful but purposeful (Luke 22:31-32). Paul's thorn was distressing but beneficial (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). Church history shows God's gentle handling of tender consciences (Augustine's gradual conversion) versus dramatic confrontations with hardened rebels (Paul's Damascus road). Divine wisdom knows precisely what each soul needs.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does knowing God calibrates your trials like a farmer choosing the right threshing tool bring comfort?
2. Are you experiencing gentle 'staff' discipline or heavier 'threshing sledge' correction, and what might this reveal about your condition?
3. How should this verse shape how we discipline others—matching correction to the person's spiritual state?

Interlinear Text

לֹא יֵכֶל	בְּתֵרוֹץ	יֹדֵשׁ	קֵצִחַ	אֵפוֹל	
H3588	H3808	with a threshing instrument	are not threshed	For the fitches	wheel
	H2742		H1758	H7100	H212
עֲגֹלָה	עַל	וְכַמְלִי	יֹסֵב	כִּי	בַמֶּטֶה
neither is a cart	H5921	and the cummin	turned about	H3588	with a staff
H5699		H3646	H5437		H4294
יִתְּבָט	קֵצִחַ	וְכַמְלִי	בַּשֶּׁבֶט:		
are beaten out	For the fitches	and the cummin	with a rod		
H2251	H7100	H3646	H7626		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 41:15 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff.
