

Isaiah 28:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.

Analysis

This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working. Isaiah concludes the farming parable by attributing all agricultural wisdom to God. **This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts** (gam-zot me'et Yahweh tseva'ot yats'ah, גָּמַזּוֹת מֵאֵת יְהוָה צְבָאֹת יָצָא, this also from the LORD of hosts goes forth)—gam-zot (גָּמַזּוֹת, this also) emphasizes everything discussed (plowing, planting, threshing) originates from God. Farmers don't originate wisdom; they receive it from the LORD of hosts (Yahweh tseva'ot, יְהוָה צְבָאֹת), sovereign over all powers.

Which is wonderful in counsel (hiflah etsah, הַפְּלִיא עֵצָה, made wonderful counsel)—pele (פֶּלֶא) means wonder, marvel, miracle. God's counsel/wisdom is beyond human comprehension (Isaiah 9:6 calls Messiah "Wonderful, Counsellor"). **And excellent in working** (higdil tushiyyah, הַגְּדִיל תֻּשִׁיָּה, made great sound wisdom/effective working). Tushiyyah (תֻּשִׁיָּה) means sound wisdom, effective action—God's plans actually work perfectly. Romans 11:33-36 praises God's unsearchable wisdom. If God gives farmers such precise wisdom about crops, how much more wisely does He handle souls! His counsel regarding discipline, growth, and harvest is wonderful; His working is excellent—perfectly accomplishing redemptive purposes.

Historical Context

This verse climaxes Isaiah 28, answering the scoffers (vv.9-10, 14-15). They mocked God's "precept upon precept" teaching as simplistic. Isaiah's parable demonstrates divine wisdom in graduated, differentiated methods—not simplistic but sophisticated, calibrated to each situation. God's counsel through prophets seemed strange (v.21), but like farming wisdom, it reflects perfect understanding. New Testament confirms this: God's "foolishness" is wiser than human wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:25). The cross seemed foolish but accomplished salvation wondrously. Pastoral ministry requires similar wisdom—knowing when to plow (confront sin), plant (teach), water (encourage), thresh (discipline), each according to spiritual state.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that all wisdom 'cometh forth from the LORD' affect your confidence in His methods with you?
2. In what ways have you seen God's 'wonderful counsel' and 'excellent working' in retrospect, even when His ways seemed strange at the time?
3. How should this chapter's conclusion shape your response when God's dealings seem harsh, strange, or incomprehensible?

Interlinear Text

גַּם	זֶה	אַתָּה	מִן	הַיְתָה	צָבָא	וְתִּצְבָּא	אֵלֶּךָ
H1571	H2063	H5973		from the LORD	of hosts	This also cometh forth	
			H3068		H6635		H3318
הַפְּלָל	אֵל	עַצְמָה	הַגְּדוּלָה				
which is wonderful	in counsel	and excellent	in working				
H6381	H6098	H1431	H8454				

Additional Cross-References

Romans 11:33 (Parallel theme): O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

Isaiah 9:6 (Parallel theme): For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Job 5:9 (Parallel theme): Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number:

Jeremiah 32:19 (Parallel theme): Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings:

Psalms 40:5 (References Lord): Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

Psalms 92:5 (References Lord): O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep.

Job 37:23 (Parallel theme): Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict.

