

Isaiah 40:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him?

Analysis

Paul quotes this verse in Romans 11:34 and 1 Corinthians 2:16 to emphasize God's incomprehensible wisdom. The Hebrew 'ruach' (Spirit) is parallel to God's mind/counsel, showing the Spirit's deity and role in divine knowledge. No one instructs God—He is the source of all wisdom, making human counsel or wisdom irrelevant to His plans.

Historical Context

This challenged the exiles who might question God's wisdom in allowing captivity, affirming that His purposes, though mysterious, are perfect and need no human correction.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. In what areas are you trying to advise God rather than trusting His superior wisdom?
2. How does acknowledging God's perfect understanding help you rest in His will even when confused?

Interlinear Text

מִי	מִנְצָא	אֶת	רְאִמָּה	הַיְהִי הַ	אֶתְּנָשָׁן
H4310	Who hath directed	H853	the Spirit	of the LORD	or being his counsellor
	H8505		H7307	H3068	H376

מִתְּנִשְׁתָּה	מִתְּנִשְׁתָּה
H6098	hath taught

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 2:16 (References Lord): For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Romans 11:34 (References Lord): For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

Job 21:22 (Parallel theme): Shall any teach God knowledge? seeing he judgeth those that are high.

Luke 10:22 (Parallel theme): All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.