

Proverbs 20:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.

Analysis

God's creative sovereignty extends to human faculties. The 'hearing ear and seeing eye' represent our ability to perceive reality and acquire knowledge. These are not products of evolutionary chance but divine craftsmanship. This verse establishes God's ownership of and authority over all human capacity. Our senses are gifts designed to glorify God by rightly perceiving His creation and revelation. Importantly, spiritual perception requires more than physical organs—God must open deaf ears and blind eyes to receive truth (Isaiah 6:9-10). The same God who made physical ears and eyes must grant spiritual sight and hearing. All knowledge begins with recognizing God as Creator and source of truth.

Historical Context

Ancient pagan worldviews attributed human faculties to various deities or saw them as random products of nature. This proverb asserts Yahweh's exclusive creative agency and purposeful design.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Do you use your God-given senses to perceive truth or to indulge fleshly desires?
2. How can you cultivate spiritual perception alongside physical sight and hearing?

Interlinear Text

אֶזְנוֹ	שְׁמִיעַת	עַיִן	רָאָה	יְהוָה	עָשָׂה	גַּם	שְׁנֵיהֶם:
ear	The hearing	eye	and the seeing	the LORD	hath made	H1571	even both
H241	H8085	H5869	H7200	H3068	H6213		H8147

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 94:9 (Parallel theme): He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?

Psalms 119:18 (Parallel theme): Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Exodus 4:11 (Creation): And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?

Acts 26:18 (Parallel theme): To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.