

Psalms 119:66

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.

Analysis

Teach me good judgment and knowledge (טוב טעם ודעת למדני)—The psalmist requests taam (literally "taste," meaning discernment or good sense) and daat (intimate, experiential knowledge). This isn't mere intellectual information but the ability to rightly apply God's truth. The Hebrew taam suggests savoring wisdom like fine food, distinguishing good from evil through refined spiritual palate.

For I have believed thy commandments (כי במצותיך האמנתי)—The psalmist's request flows from prior faith (he'emanti, perfect tense indicating settled conviction). He doesn't seek knowledge as a skeptic demanding proof, but as a committed disciple wanting deeper understanding. Faith precedes understanding; trust in God's commands creates the foundation for mature discernment.

Historical Context

Psalms 119, the longest chapter in Scripture (176 verses), is an elaborate acrostic poem where each 8-verse section begins with successive Hebrew letters. Written likely during the exile or post-exilic period, it reflects Israel's renewed appreciation for Torah after experiencing the consequences of disobedience. Every verse (except one) references God's word using synonyms: law, testimonies, precepts, statutes, commandments, judgments, word, saying.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does "tasting" God's wisdom differ from merely knowing facts about Scripture?
2. In what areas of life do you need better spiritual discernment to apply biblical truth?

Interlinear Text

ט וֹב	ט עֵם	וְדַעַת	לְמַדְנִי	כִּי	בְּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ
me good	judgment	and knowledge	Teach	H3588	thy commandments
H2898	H2940	H1847	H3925		H4687

הֵאֱמַנְתִּי:
for I have believed
H539

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 1:9 (Judgment): And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

Psalms 119:128 (Parallel theme): Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.

1 Kings 3:9 (Judgment): Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

Psalms 119:34 (Word): Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

Matthew 13:11 (Parallel theme): He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

Psalms 119:160 (Judgment): Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

Psalms 119:172 (Word): My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.

Proverbs 8:20 (Judgment): I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:

1 Kings 3:28 (Judgment): And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.

Judges 3:15 (Parallel theme): But when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised them up a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man lefthanded: and by him the children of Israel sent a present unto Eglon the king of Moab.