

Psalms 119:73

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.

Analysis

Thy hands have made me and fashioned me (יָדְיָךְ עָשׂוּנִי וַיְכַוְנֵנִי)—the doubling of verbs intensifies divine craftsmanship. Asuni (made) speaks of initial creation, while yechonununi (fashioned/established) suggests deliberate shaping with purpose. This echoes Job 10:8 and anticipates Paul's theology that we are God's poiema (workmanship/poetry) created in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:10).

Give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments (הַבִּינֵנִי וְאֶלְמְדָהּ (מִצְוֹתֶיךָ) follows logically: the Creator alone grants the binah (discernment) needed to grasp His mitzvot. This is covenantal epistemology—the hands that formed us must also illumine us. Without divine enablement, even Scripture remains opaque.

Historical Context

The theology of God as craftsman permeates Hebrew Scripture (Isaiah 64:8, Jeremiah 18). In the post-exilic period, this doctrine answered existential questions: if God formed us with purpose, suffering must serve His sovereign design. The Yodh section emphasizes divine sovereignty over both creation and redemption.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does remembering God as your Maker change your response to circumstances that seem to 'un-make' you?
2. What connection exists between acknowledging God's creative work in you and receiving spiritual understanding?
3. In what areas of life are you asking the Creator to grant understanding rather than relying on human wisdom?

Interlinear Text

יָד יְיָ	עָ שׁוּנִי	וַיְכַוֵּנֵנִי וַיֵּ	הָ בִינֵי נִי
JOD Thy hands	have made	me and fashioned	me give me understanding
H3027	H6213	H3559	H995
וְאֶלְמֶדֶת הָ	מִצְוֹתֶיךָ:		
that I may learn	thy commandments		
H3925	H4687		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 138:8 (Parallel theme): The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

Job 31:15 (Creation): Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?

Job 32:8 (Parallel theme): But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

Psalms 111:10 (Word): The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

Psalms 119:125 (Parallel theme): I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies.

1 John 5:20 (Parallel theme): And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

2 Timothy 2:7 (Parallel theme): Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

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

Psalms 100:3 (Creation): Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Psalms 119:169 (Word): Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word.