

Psalms 119:98

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.

Analysis

Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies (תְּהִקְמָתִיךְ מֵאֹבֵדְךָ—me'oyevai techakkemeni mitzvotekha)—Divine pedagogy: God's mitzvot (commandments) produce chakam (wisdom, skill). Not merely information but formation—Scripture creates sagacity enemies lack. **For they are ever with me** (כִּי לְעוֹלָם הַיְאָלִים—ki le'olam hi-li)—Constant companionship, not occasional consultation.

David's wisdom exceeded Saul's military cunning (1 Samuel 18:14); Daniel surpassed Babylonian counselors (Daniel 1:20). True wisdom isn't native intelligence but God-taught discernment. Proverbs 9:10 establishes the foundation: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." The psalmist's advantage isn't IQ but intimacy—walking with Scripture until its categories reshape perception. This is Paul's "mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16).

Historical Context

In Israel, wisdom literature (Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes) competed with pagan wisdom traditions—Egyptian Amenemope, Mesopotamian Ahiqar. The psalmist claims Hebrew Scripture surpasses all rivals, a claim validated in Christ, "in whom are hidden all treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Can you identify a situation where biblical wisdom gave you insight your 'enemies' (opponents, critics) lacked?
2. What does it mean for God's commandments to be 'ever with you'? How can you cultivate that constant companionship?

Interlinear Text

מִנְזָהָב	בְּ	מִצְוֹת	תִּתְחַכֵּם	נִ	כִּ	אֶלָּכָי	כִּ
than mine enemies	hast made me wiser	Thou through thy commandments					H3588
H341	H2449					H4687	
לְעוֹלָם	הִיא	לִ					
for they are ever	H1931	H0					
	H5769						

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 2:6 (Parallel theme): For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

James 1:25 (Word): But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Colossians 3:16 (Word): Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Psalms 119:11 (Word): Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Deuteronomy 4:6 (Parallel theme): Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

Psalms 119:30 (Parallel theme): I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me.

Deuteronomy 4:8 (Word): And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

1 Samuel 18:30 (Parallel theme): Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by.

1 Samuel 18:14 (Parallel theme): And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him.

1 Samuel 18:5 (Parallel theme): And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.