

Psalm 25:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.

Analysis

The question 'What man is he that feareth the LORD?' introduces divine instruction: 'him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.' God personally instructs those who fear Him, guiding their choices. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom (Prov. 9:10)—prerequisite for divine teaching. Reformed theology sees this as effectual calling and illumination: God teaches His elect through Word and Spirit, enabling wise choices that glorify Him. Divine pedagogy shapes the God-fearer's path.

Historical Context

Israel's wisdom tradition emphasized that fearing God led to understanding and wise living. God taught through Torah, prophets, sages, and providence. Those who feared Him learned to discern His will and walk in it.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does 'fearing the LORD' open you to His teaching?
2. In what decisions do you need God to 'teach you the way to choose'?

Interlinear Text

מִי	הָאִישׁ	אֲיָרָה	יְהִי הָרָא	וְיִתְעַכֵּב	בְּדַרְכָּה
H4310	H2088	What man	is he that feareth	the LORD	him shall he teach
		H376	H3373	H3068	H3384

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 37:23 (References Lord): The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

Psalms 32:8 (Parallel theme): I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

John 7:17 (Parallel theme): If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

Psalms 111:10 (References Lord): 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.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (Parallel theme): Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.

Isaiah 50:10 (References Lord): Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.

Proverbs 1:7 (References Lord): The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 16:6 (References Lord): By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

Proverbs 15:33 (References Lord): The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

Isaiah 35:8 (Parallel theme): And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

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