

Psalms 94:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not he correct? he that teacheth man knowledge, shall not he know?

Analysis

He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not he correct? (הִיִּסֵר גוֹיִם)—The rhetorical question assumes God's pedagogical sovereignty. If Yahweh disciplines (yasar) the nations in history's theater, how much more His own covenant people? **He that teacheth man knowledge** (הִמְלִיךְ אָדָם דַּעַת) establishes God as the universal source of all understanding—not merely revealing truth but creating the very capacity for human knowing.

Paul echoes this in 1 Corinthians 1:20-21, declaring God's wisdom confounds human philosophy. The psalm's logic flows from greater to lesser: if God governs history's macro-movements, He certainly attends to individual lives. This grounds confidence in divine justice despite wicked oppression.

Historical Context

Psalm 94 is a communal lament confronting theodicy—why does God allow the wicked to prosper? Written likely during exile or post-exilic persecution, it reflects Israel's struggle with apparent divine silence while enemies blaspheme Yahweh.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God as the source of all knowledge challenge your intellectual pride or doubt?
2. Where do you need to trust God's discipline as evidence of His fatherly care rather than absence?
3. What rhetorical questions does your soul ask God in suffering—and how does this psalm reframe them?

Interlinear Text

הַיֹּסֵף	גוֹיִם	הֵלֵא	יֹכֵחַ יְיָ	הַמְלִיךָ ד
He that chastiseth	the heathen	H3808	shall not he correct	he that teacheth
H3256	H1471		H3198	H3925
אִישׁ	דַּעַת:			
man	knowledge			
H120	H1847			

Additional Cross-References

Job 35:11 (Parallel theme): Who teacheth us more than the beasts of the earth, and maketh us wiser than the fowls of heaven?

Isaiah 28:26 (Parallel theme): For his God doth instruct him to discretion, and doth teach him.

Psalms 44:2 (Parallel theme): How thou didst drive out the heathen with thy hand, and plantedst them; how thou didst afflict the people, and cast them out.

Jeremiah 10:25 (Parallel theme): Pour out thy fury upon the heathen that know thee not, and upon the families that call not on thy name: for they have eaten up Jacob, and devoured him, and consumed him, and have made his habitation desolate.