

2 Chronicles 26:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong.

Analysis

Uzziah's success is attributed to divine help: 'And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong.' The phrase 'marvellously helped' (nifla la'azor - wonderfully aided) credits God for Uzziah's military innovations and reputation. The temporal clause 'till he was strong' foreshadows tragedy - strength led to pride (26:16). This teaches the dangerous pattern: God's help → success → strength → pride → fall. Only those who maintain humility during success avoid this cycle. Christ perfectly received the Father's help while maintaining humble dependence.

Historical Context

Uzziah's long reign (c. 790-738 BCE) saw military and economic expansion. His engineering innovations and strong defenses made Judah a regional power. Yet prosperity bred the pride that led to his usurping priestly functions and resulting leprosy (26:16-21).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How can you maintain humble dependence on God during seasons of success and strength?
2. What warning signs indicate you're moving from grateful acknowledgment of God's help toward prideful self-reliance?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַשׂ	בִּירוּשָׁלַם	חֲשָׁבֹנֹת	מִחָשׁ בֵּת	חֹשֶׁב	לֵהִי	וְ
And he made	in Jerusalem	engines	invented	by cunning men		
H6213	H3389	H2810	H4284	H2803	H1961	
עַל	הַמִּגְדָּלִים	וְעַל	הַפִּנּוֹת	לִירוּא	בְּחֶצִים	
H5921	to be on the towers	H5921	and upon the bulwarks	to shoot	arrows	
	H4026		H6438	H3384	H2671	
וּבָאֲבָנֵי	גָדֹל	וַיִּצָּר	שְׁמוֹ	עַד	לִמְרֹחַ	כִּי
stones	and great	spread	withal And his name	H5704	far abroad	till
H68	H1419	H3318	H8034		H7350	H3588
הָפֶלַח	יָא	לְהַעֲזִיר	עַד	כִּי	חֲזָק:	
for he was marvellously		helped	H5704	till	he was strong	
H6381		H5826		H3588	H2388	

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 4:24 (Parallel theme): And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and

torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

Exodus 31:4 (Parallel theme): To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass,

2 Chronicles 2:7 (References Jerusalem): Send me now therefore a man cunning to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, and in iron, and in purple, and crimson, and blue, and that can skill to grave with the cunning men that are with me in Judah and in Jerusalem, whom David my father did provide.

2 Chronicles 2:14 (Parallel theme): The son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre, skilful to work in gold, and in silver, in brass, in iron, in stone, and in timber, in purple, in blue, and in fine linen, and in crimson; also to grave any manner of graving, and to find out every device which shall be put to him, with thy cunning men, and with the cunning men of my lord David thy father.