

Ezekiel 28:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee:

Analysis

Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel sarcastically compares the king of Tyre to Daniel, famous for wisdom. No secret that they can hide from thee claims omniscience. This is obvious sarcasm—the king thinks himself all-knowing. Pride inflates self-assessment beyond reality. The king believes his commercial success proves superior intelligence. But worldly success doesn't equal wisdom. The fear of the LORD is wisdom's beginning (Proverbs 9:10); without it, all human cleverness is folly. Tyre's king mistook shrewdness for wisdom, tactical skill for true understanding.

Historical Context

Daniel was already famous by this time for interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dreams and demonstrating supernatural wisdom. The king of Tyre (likely Ithobaal III) had achieved commercial success through intelligent trade management. But comparing commercial cleverness to Daniel's divine wisdom is ludicrous—the sarcasm exposes the king's absurd self-assessment.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do we mistake worldly success for true wisdom?
2. What's the difference between shrewdness and wisdom?
3. Why does commercial or tactical intelligence often produce pride rather than humility?

Interlinear Text

הֵי הָ	חָכָם	אֲתָהּ	מְדַנֵּא לְ	כָּל	סֵת וּמִ	לֹא
H2009	Behold thou art wiser	H859	than Daniel	H3605	there is no secret	H3808
	H2450		H1840		H5640	
סְתֵימָן:						
that they can hide						
H6004						

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 1:20 (Parallel theme): And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

Daniel 2:22 (Parallel theme): He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

Psalms 25:14 (Parallel theme): The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

Job 15:8 (Parallel theme): Hast thou heard the secret of God? and dost thou restrain wisdom to thyself?

1 Kings 10:3 (Parallel theme): And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not any thing hid from the king, which he told her not.