

Ezekiel 28:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

With thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures:

Analysis

With thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches attributes Tyre's wealth to human intelligence. And hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures details the accumulation. This isn't entirely false—human intelligence does produce wealth. But the error is attributing everything to human effort while ignoring God who gives the intelligence, the resources, the opportunity, and the stability enabling commerce. All prosperity ultimately comes from God (Deuteronomy 8:18). Taking sole credit for what God enables is prideful blindness. We are stewards, not creators, of wealth.

Historical Context

Tyre's commercial success resulted from strategic location, navigational skill, trade networks, and shrewd business practices. These are real human contributions. Yet Phoenician prosperity also depended on factors beyond their control: Mediterranean geography, available resources, relative peace enabling trade, and the intelligence God gave them. Acknowledging human contribution while denying divine foundation is incomplete and proud.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do we balance acknowledging human effort while crediting God's enabling?
2. What role does God play in our economic success beyond our own effort?
3. Why is taking sole credit for prosperity a form of practical atheism?

Interlinear Text

בְּחִכְמָתְךָ	וּבִתְבוּנָתְךָ	וְיָ עָשָׂה	לְךָ	יְיָ יֵל
With thy wisdom	and with thine understanding	and hast gotten	H0	thee riches
H2451	H8394	H6213		H2428
וְיָ עָשָׂה	זָהָב	וְכֶסֶף	בְּאוֹצְרוֹתֶיךָ:	
and hast gotten	gold	and silver	into thy treasures	
H6213	H2091	H3701	H214	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 18:11 (Parallel theme): The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit.