

Isaiah 28:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And for a spirit of judgment to him that sitteth in judgment,
and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate.

Analysis

And for a spirit of judgment to him that sitteth in judgment, and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate. God as crown of glory (v.5) provides specific benefits: **a spirit of judgment** (le-ruach mishpat, לְרוּחַ מִשְׁפָּט, for a spirit of justice/discernment) **to him that sitteth in judgment** (la-yoshev al-hamishpat, לַיּוֹשֵׁב עַל-הַמִּשְׁפָּט, to the one sitting on the judgment seat). Leaders/judges who seek the LORD receive wisdom to judge righteously. Solomon prayed for such discernment (1 Kings 3:9); Isaiah 11:2-4 prophesies the Messiah will have the spirit of wisdom and understanding to judge perfectly.

And for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate (lig-vurah meshivei milchamah sha'rah, לְגִבּוֹרָה מְשִׁיבֵי מִלְחָמָה שְׂעָרָה, depicts warriors who repel invaders, driving them back to the city gates—defensive victory. Gevurah (גִּבּוֹרָה) means might, strength, heroic power. God gives supernatural strength to defenders. This contrasts Ephraim's drunken leaders (vv.1,7) who lacked both wisdom and strength. When leaders seek God, He provides what they need—judicial wisdom and military strength—but these come from Him, not themselves.

Historical Context

Hezekiah's reign demonstrated this. When Sennacherib besieged Jerusalem (701 BC), Hezekiah prayed, and God destroyed 185,000 Assyrians (2 Kings 19:35). The LORD was strength to those defending the gates. Conversely, when Judah's later kings relied on Egypt and ignored God, they lacked both wise judgment and

strength to defend against Babylon. For the church, spiritual warfare requires divine strength (Ephesians 6:10) and Spirit-given discernment to judge rightly (1 Corinthians 2:14-15, Hebrews 5:14). Christ is our wisdom and our strength (1 Corinthians 1:24, 30).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do leaders (in church, family, workplace) depend on God for the 'spirit of judgment' to make wise decisions?
2. What 'battles' are you facing where you need divine strength rather than relying on your own resources?
3. How does seeking the LORD as your crown (v.5) practically result in wisdom and strength (v.6) for daily challenges?

Interlinear Text

וְלִרְחַם	הַמִּשְׁפָּט	לְיוֹשֵׁב	עַל	הַמִּשְׁפָּט	וְלִגְבוּרָה
And for a spirit	in judgment	to him that sitteth	H5921	in judgment	and for strength
H7307	H4941	H3427		H4941	H1369
מְשִׁיבֵי	מִלְחָמָה	שַׁעְרָה:			
to them that turn	the battle	to the gate			
H7725	H4421	H8179			

Additional Cross-References

John 5:30 (Judgment): I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Joshua 1:9 (Parallel theme): Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

John 3:34 (Spirit): For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

Psalms 46:1 (Parallel theme): God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Proverbs 20:8 (Judgment): A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes.

1 Corinthians 12:8 (Spirit): For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

Deuteronomy 20:4 (Parallel theme): For the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.

1 Kings 3:28 (Judgment): And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.

2 Chronicles 32:8 (Parallel theme): With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.