

Isaiah 41:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They helped every one his neighbour; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage.

Analysis

In crisis, nations turn to mutual encouragement ('they helped every one his neighbour') and strengthening each other's hands—but in idolatry! The Hebrew 'chazaq' (be strong) should lead to trust in God, but here produces collaboration in folly. Human solidarity in rebellion against God appears supportive but leads to shared destruction.

Historical Context

This describes the coalitions formed against Persian expansion, with nations banding together for defense while simultaneously intensifying their religious devotion to false gods for supernatural aid.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you see people today encouraging each other in ultimately futile pursuits?
2. What is the difference between godly encouragement and enabling each other in sin?

Interlinear Text

אֵשׁ	אֶת	רֵעֵהוּ	יִעֲזְרוּ	וּלְאָחִיו	יֹאמַר
every one	H853	his neighbour	They helped	to his brother	and every one said
H376		H7453	H5826	H251	H559

בְּקִיָּה:
Be of good courage
H2388

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 40:19 (Parallel theme): The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains.

Isaiah 44:12 (Parallel theme): The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and fashioneth it with hammers, and worketh it with the strength of his arms: yea, he is hungry, and his strength faileth: he drinketh no water, and is faint.