

Psalms 18:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken
by mine arms.

Analysis

God trained David's hands for war and arms to bend a bronze bow. The Hebrew 'lamad' (trained/taught) indicates divine instruction in military skills. Bending a bronze bow required extraordinary strength. This illustrates God's comprehensive providence—even practical skills come from Him. It anticipates Paul's teaching that diverse abilities come from the same Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-6). All legitimate skills glorify God when used for His purposes.

Historical Context

Ancient warfare required extensive training. Bronze bows (or bronze-reinforced) demanded great strength. David's prowess came through divine enablement, not mere natural talent.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you acknowledge God's role in developing your practical skills?
2. In what ways do you use God-given abilities for kingdom purposes?

Interlinear Text

מְלִמֵּד דַּ	יָדַי	לְמַלְחָמָה ה	וְנִבְתָּה ה	קִשְׁתִּי	בְּחוּשׁ ה
He teacheth	my hands	to war	is broken	so that a bow	of steel
H3925	H3027	H4421	H5181	H7198	H5154
זְרוּעֹתַי:					
by mine arms					
H2220					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 144:1 (Parallel theme): Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight:

Psalms 46:9 (Parallel theme): He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.

2 Samuel 22:36 (Parallel theme): Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great.

Isaiah 28:6 (Parallel theme): And for a spirit of judgment to him that sitteth in judgment, and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate.

Isaiah 45:1 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

Jeremiah 49:35 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, the chief of their might.