

Psalms 45:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.

Analysis

The king rides prosperously 'because of truth and meekness and righteousness.' These virtues--truth, meekness, and righteousness--characterize the ideal ruler. His 'right hand shall teach thee terrible things,' indicating that justice, not mere power, guides his warfare. The king fights for moral causes, not mere conquest.

Historical Context

This verse distinguishes Israel's ideal king from typical ancient Near Eastern despots who fought for expansion and plunder. The Davidic king was to embody covenant virtues and execute justice.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do truth, meekness, and righteousness guide proper use of authority?
2. What 'terrible things' does Christ's right hand accomplish in spiritual warfare?

Interlinear Text

וְהָדָרְךָ אֵל	צִלְחַ	רָכַב	עַל	דְּבַר	אֵת מֶת	יַעֲנֶה
And in thy majesty	prosperously	ride	H5921	because	of truth	and meekness
H1926	H6743	H7392		H1697	H571	H6037
צִדְקָה	וְתוֹרָה	נֹכָא וְ		יְמִינְךָ:		
and righteousness	shall teach	thee terrible things		and thy right hand		
H6664	H3384	H3372		H3225		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 65:5 (Righteousness): By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea:

Revelation 6:2 (Parallel theme): And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

Revelation 19:11 (Righteousness): And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Matthew 11:29 (Parallel theme): Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.