

# Amos 2:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Neither shall he stand that handleth the bow; and he that is swift of foot shall not deliver himself: neither shall he that rideth the horse deliver himself.

## Analysis

In this verse detailing Moab's coming judgment, three classes of warriors prove helpless: **he that handleth the bow** (הַקְשֵׁת הַקְשֵׁת, tofes haqeshet, the archer), **he that is swift of foot** (קָל בָּרְגָּלִי, qal b'ragalav, literally 'light in his feet'), and **he that rideth the horse** (רֹכֶב הַסּוֹס, rochev hasus, the cavalry). The threefold repetition—'shall not deliver himself' (לֹא יִמְלֹא, lo yemalet)—hammers home human inability to escape divine judgment.

Ancient warfare relied on these three military advantages: long-range attack (archers), speed (runners for messages and retreat), and mobile power (cavalry). Yet when God judges, no human strategy suffices. This prefigures Romans 8:33—when God justifies, who can condemn? Conversely, when God condemns, no created thing can deliver.

## Historical Context

Moab, descended from Lot (Genesis 19:37), occupied territory east of the Dead Sea. They possessed skilled archers and swift-footed messengers. This prophecy found fulfillment in multiple invasions: by Assyria (715 BC), Babylon (582 BC), and finally Arab conquest that erased Moabite identity entirely.

## Related Passages

## **Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith**

## **James 2:17 — Faith and works**

## Study Questions

1. What modern 'advantages'—technology, wealth, intelligence—do people trust for security instead of God?
2. How does the futility of military might in escaping judgment challenge nations that trust in weapons?
3. If no one can flee from God's judgment, what makes the gospel offer of escape through Christ so extraordinary?

## Interlinear Text

|                       |                |   |                             |
|-----------------------|----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| וְתַף ש               | ל א בָּק שַׁת  | ל יְעַמֵּד                                  | לֹא                         |
| <b>that handleth</b>  | <b>the bow</b> | <b>Neither shall he stand</b>               | <b>and he that is swift</b> |
| H8610                 | H7198          | H5975                                       | H7031                       |
| וְתַף י               | ל א יְמַלֵּט   | וְרַכְבָּה                                  | ל א הַס יָס                 |
| <b>of foot</b>        | <b>deliver</b> | <b>himself neither shall he that rideth</b> | <b>the horse</b>            |
| H7272                 | H4422          | H7392                                       | H3808                       |
| בְּפִשְׁׁוֹן יְמַלֵּט |                |   |                             |
| <b>deliver</b>        | <b>himself</b> |   |                             |
| H4422                 | H5315          |   |                             |

## Additional Cross-References

**Ezekiel 39:3** (Parallel theme): And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand.