

Exodus 14:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them.

Analysis

The force composition—'six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them'—emphasizes overwhelming military superiority. 'Chosen' chariots were elite forces; 'all the chariots' indicates full mobilization; 'captains' (shalishim, שַׁלִּישִׁים) were third-man crews (driver, fighter, shield-bearer). This massive force pursues unarmed former slaves. God orchestrates overwhelming human odds to make His deliverance undeniable.

Historical Context

600 elite chariots plus 'all the chariots' likely numbered in the thousands. Each chariot had a crew of three. This represented Egypt's full military might against defenseless civilians.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do overwhelming odds against you create opportunity for God to demonstrate His power?
2. What does God allowing massive enemy force to pursue His people teach about His confidence in delivering them?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּקַּח	שֵׁשׁ	מֵאֹת	כָּבֹד	בָּחֹר	לְ
And he took	six	hundred	and all the chariots	chosen	H3605
H3947	H8337	H3967	H7393	H977	
כָּבֹד	מִצְרַיִם	וְשָׁלֹשׁ	עַל	כָּלֹ:	
and all the chariots	of Egypt	and captains	H5921	H3605	
H7393	H4714	H7991			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 15:4 (Parallel theme): Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea.

Isaiah 37:24 (Parallel theme): By thy servants hast thou reproached the Lord, and hast said, By the multitude of my chariots am I come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon; and I will cut down the tall cedars thereof, and the choice fir trees thereof: and I will enter into the height of his border, and the forest of his Carmel.

Psalms 68:17 (Parallel theme): The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place.

Psalms 20:7 (Parallel theme): Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

Exodus 14:23 (References Egypt): And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

Judges 4:3 (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD: for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel.

Judges 4:15 (Parallel theme): And the LORD discomfited Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera lighted down off his chariot, and fled away on his feet.

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