

Ezekiel 23:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which were clothed with blue, captains and rulers, all of them desirable young men, horsemen riding upon horses.

Analysis

Clothed with blue, captains and rulers, all of them desirable young men, horsemen riding upon horses catalogs Assyria's military and political splendor. Blue dye (Hebrew tekhelet) indicated nobility and luxury. Israel's attraction was aesthetic and pragmatic—power, wealth, prestige. Israel's political calculus chose visible strength over invisible faith, preferring chariots to prayer (Psalm 20:7). This mirrors every age's temptation to trust in human strength, sophisticated systems, and worldly power rather than in God's providence. The carnal mind always prefers tangible resources over divine promises.

Historical Context

Assyria dominated Near Eastern politics from 911-609 BC, with the Neo-Assyrian Empire reaching its zenith under Tiglath-Pileser III, Shalmaneser V, and Sargon II—exactly when Israel sought their alliance. Assyrian military technology, including cavalry and siege engines, was unmatched and visible to surrounding nations.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What attractive worldly powers tempt us to compromise spiritual integrity?
2. How does the appearance of strength deceive us into faithless alliances?
3. Why is trusting visible resources easier than trusting the invisible God?

Interlinear Text

לְבָשֵׁי	פְּחִזְבָּנִים	וְסִגְנָנִים	בְּחַרְבִּים
Which were clothed	with blue	captains	and rulers
H3847	H8504	H6346	H5461
סְפִינִים	רַכְבִּים	פְּרַשִּׁים	כָּלִים
סְפִינִים	רַכְבִּים	פְּרַשִּׁים	כָּלִים
all of them desirable	H3605	horsemen	riding upon horses
H2531	H6571	H7392	H5483

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