

Ezekiel 39:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD.

Analysis

Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots—The phrase shulchani (שְׁלַחַנִי, "my table") indicates God hosts this gruesome banquet, inverting normal hospitality where honored guests feast at a king's table (2 Samuel 9:7,11; 1 Kings 2:7). Here, scavengers are "honored guests" consuming God's enemies.

The inclusion of **horses and chariots** alongside **mighty men, and all men of war** encompasses both military hardware and personnel—comprehensive destruction of Gog's war machine. The Hebrew gibborim (גִּבְעֹרִים, mighty men) and ish milchamah (אִישׁ מִלְחָמָה, men of war) emphasize martial prowess, rendered completely ineffective against God's sovereign judgment. The concluding formula **saith the Lord GOD** (neum Adonai Yahweh, תְּאִם אֲדֹנֵי יְהוָה) provides divine authentication, confirming this prophecy's certain fulfillment.

Historical Context

In ancient Near Eastern warfare, horses and chariots represented cutting-edge military technology, the ancient equivalent of modern armor and air power. Israel's enemies consistently possessed superior chariotry (Judges 4:3; 1 Samuel 13:5; 1 Kings 10:26), making them objects of fear and temptation to trust in rather than God (Isaiah 31:1).

This prophecy promises total reversal: the very military assets that made Gog formidable become carrion alongside his warriors. The "table" imagery evokes

Psalm 23:5 ("preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies"), but inverted—here God prepares a table FROM His enemies FOR scavengers. For exilic Israel, this assured that no military superiority could overcome God's purposes. This influenced Revelation's final battle (19:17-21, 20:7-10) where earthly armies and their technology prove utterly futile against divine sovereignty.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the inclusion of horses and chariots (military technology) alongside warriors demonstrate that human strength and innovation cannot resist God's purposes?
2. In what ways might modern believers be tempted to trust in contemporary "horses and chariots" (technology, wealth, military power) rather than God's sovereignty?

Interlinear Text

וְשִׁבְעַת מֵ	עַל	שְׁלַחֲנִי	סְרִיאָה	בְּנֵי	גָּבָר וּרְ	
Thus ye shall be filled	H5921	at my table	H5483	with horses	and chariots	with mighty men
H7646		H7979		H7393		H1368

וְהַ	אָדָם	מַלְכָם הַ	אֵשׁ	וְכָל
and with all men	of war	saih	the Lord	GOD
H3605	H4421	H5002	H136	H3069

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 19:18 (Parallel theme): That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

Haggai 2:22 (Parallel theme): And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother.

Ezekiel 38:4 (Parallel theme): And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:

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