

Ezra 2:66

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Their horses were seven hundred thirty and six; their mules, two hundred forty and five;

Analysis

The animal count begins: 'Their horses were seven hundred thirty and six.' The precision (736 horses) demonstrates administrative thoroughness. Horses were valuable—used for transportation, military purposes, and status symbols. That the community possessed hundreds of horses shows material resources accompanied the return. God provided not just permission but practical means for the journey and settlement.

Historical Context

Horses were expensive to maintain, requiring feed and care. The 736 horses shows substantial wealth in the returning community—not all were poor. Some returnees had prospered in Babylon. Archaeological evidence shows horses were imported and valuable in the ancient Near East. The horses would have served transportation needs for the 900-mile journey and subsequent work establishing settlements. Their presence demonstrates that God provided practical resources for commanded work.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does possession of 736 horses demonstrate that God provides practical resources, not just spiritual encouragement, for His work?
2. What does the specificity (736, not 'about 700') teach about biblical attention to historical detail and accuracy?

Interlinear Text

פְּרָדִיָּהּ ׀	וְשֵׁשׁ הַ	שָׁלֹשׁ יָם	מֵאֵת יָם	שֶׁבַע	קוֹסִיָּהּ ׀
their mules	and six	thirty	hundred	were seven	Their horses
H6505	H8337	H7970	H3967	H7651	H5483

וְחֲמִשָּׁה:	אַרְבָּעַ יָם	מֵאֵת יָם
and five	forty	hundred
H2568	H705	H3967

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