

Isaiah 36:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore give pledges, I pray thee, to my master the king of Assyria, and I will give thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them.

Analysis

Rabshakeh's mocking offer—"I will give thee two thousand horses, if thou be able to set riders upon them"—ridicules Judah's military weakness. This insult implies Judah lacks even basic cavalry forces. The offer is disingenuous psychological warfare meant to humiliate and demoralize. However, it inadvertently highlights a spiritual truth: God's strength is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). When His people are obviously inadequate, His power becomes undeniable.

Historical Context

Horses and chariots represented military superiority in ancient warfare. Judah's mountainous terrain limited cavalry use, but the taunt still stung.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God often allow us to be in positions where our weakness is obvious?

2. What comfort comes from knowing God's power is displayed through our inadequacy?
3. How should we respond to mockery of our apparent weakness?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה

H6258

הַתָּעַ רָב

Now therefore give pledges

H6148

אֶת נָ א

H4994

אֶת

H854

אֲדֹנָי

I pray thee to my master

H113

הַמֶּלֶךְ

the king

H4428

אֲשׁוּר

of Assyria

H804

וְאֶתְּ

and I will give

H5414

לְךָ

H0

אֶלְפֵי שְׁנַיִם

thee two thousand

H505

סוּסֵי

horses

H5483

אֲמִי

H518

אִם תִּהְיֶה

if thou be able

H3201

וְאֶתְּ

and I will give

H5414

לְךָ

H0

רֹכְבֵי

riders

H7392

עָלֵיהֶם:

H5921