

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

Psalm 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

הַתִּשְׁעַרְתָּ בְּ

Now therefore give pledges

H6148

אַתָּה בְּ אֶ

H4994

אָדָן יְ

I pray thee to my master

H113

לְךָ לְ

H4428

אֲשֶׁר וְ

H804

לְתַתְּ בְּ

H5414

לְךָ

H0

אַלְפָם

H505

אַם סִסְיָם

H5483

if thou be able

H3201

and I will give

H5414

לְתַתְּ

H0

רַכְבָּם:

H7392

עֲלֵיכֶם:

H5921

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