

# Isaiah 36:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How then wilt thou turn away the face of one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put thy trust on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen?

## Analysis

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The rhetorical question "How then wilt thou turn away the face of one captain of the least of my master's servants?" emphasizes hopelessness from a human perspective. Even the lowest Assyrian officer supposedly outmatches all Judah. The continued mention of trusting Egypt for chariots and horsemen shows the Assyrians understood Judah's diplomatic maneuvering. This sustained mockery aims to break morale by presenting the situation as utterly hopeless apart from surrender.

## Historical Context

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Assyrian military structure included multiple tiers of officers. Rabshakeh's point was that even minor Assyrian commanders were insurmountable for Judah.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How do enemies of faith often present situations as utterly hopeless to induce surrender?
2. What does it mean to maintain hope when circumstances appear impossible?
3. How has God demonstrated His power when you faced overwhelming opposition?

## Interlinear Text

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עָבֹד יְהוָה	אָתָּה יְבַשׁ	אָתָּה פָּנָה	פָּנָה תִּפְנַת	עָבֹד יְהוָה
H349      How then wilt thou turn away	H7725	H853      the face	H6440      captain	H259      of one
			H6346	H5650      servants
אָדָן יְמִינְךָ	לְבָבְךָ עַל	מִצְרָיִם	כְּבָבָבְךָ	לְבָבְךָ
אָדָן יְמִינְךָ	H0	H5921      on Egypt	H4714      for chariots	H7393
וְלֹפֶתֶשִׁים:				
and for horsemen				
H6571				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 10:8** (Parallel theme): For he saith, Are not my princes altogether kings?

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