

# 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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וְאֵיךְ H349	תִּשָּׁוּ יָב H7725	אֵת H853	פְּנֵי י H6440	פַּחַת H6346	אֶחָד H259	עֲבָדֵי י H5650
	How then wilt thou turn away		the face	captain	of one	servants
אֲדֹנָי H113	הַקָּטָן יָם H6996	וּתְבַטֵּחַ H982	לִבִּי H0	עַל H5921	מִצְרַיִם H4714	לְרֶכֶב H7393
of my master's	of the least	and put thy trust			on Egypt	for chariots
וּלְפָרָשִׁים H6571						
and for horsemen						

## 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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