

# Jeremiah 46:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Come up, ye horses; and rage, ye chariots; and let the mighty men come forth; the Ethiopians and the Libyans, that handle the shield; and the Lydians, that handle and bend the bow.

## Analysis

**Come up, ye horses; and rage, ye chariots**—The Hebrew alah (עֲלָה, "come up") echoes verse 8's ascending waters, now ironically commanding Egypt's military to advance toward their doom. The verb halal (הַלֵּל, "rage") means to act madly or boast, suggesting frenzied, reckless confidence. Jeremiah catalogs Egypt's mercenary forces: **the Ethiopians** (Kush, כָּשָׂע, referring to Nubia/Sudan), **the Libyans** (Put, פָּטוּ, modern Libya), and **the Lydians** (Ludim, לָוִידִים, Asia Minor)—demonstrating Egypt's reliance on hired soldiers rather than covenant faithfulness.

The phrase **that handle the shield** (taphas magen, תָּפַשׂ מָגֵן) and **that handle and bend the bow** (dorekei qeshet, דָּרְקֵי קֶשֶׁת) emphasizes military expertise, yet expertise cannot prevent God's ordained judgment. This multinational coalition mirrors the nations gathered against God's purposes throughout Scripture, prefiguring the eschatological gathering against Jerusalem in Zechariah 14 and Revelation 19-20. Human military might, however impressive, crumbles before divine decree.

## Historical Context

Egypt's military relied heavily on mercenaries from its vassal territories. Archaeological evidence confirms Ethiopian (Kushite) and Libyan troops served in Egyptian armies throughout the Late Period. The Lydians from western Asia Minor were renowned archers. This diversity revealed both Egypt's extensive influence



## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 66:19** (Parallel theme): And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.

**Ezekiel 27:10** (Parallel theme): They of Persia and of Lud and of Phut were in thine army, thy men of war: they hanged the shield and helmet in thee; they set forth thy comeliness.

**Nahum 3:9** (Parallel theme): Ethiopia and Egypt were her strength, and it was infinite; Put and Lubim were thy helpers.

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