

Job 39:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He saith among the trumpets, Ha, ha; and he smelleth the battle afar off, the thunder of the captains, and the shouting.

Analysis

God's description of the war horse reaches its climax with this vivid portrayal of battle eagerness. 'He saith among the trumpets, Ha, ha' (be-dei shopar hach, בְּדֵי שׁוֹפָר הָחָ) captures the horse's excited response to the battle trumpet—almost laughing or snorting with anticipation. 'Smelleth the battle afar off' (reyach milchamah, רְיַחַם מִלְחָמָה) means literally to perceive by scent, suggesting the horse senses conflict before visible signs appear. 'Thunder of the captains and the shouting' (ra'am sarim, רְעֵם שָׂרִים) refers to commanders' battle cries and troops' war shouts. This verse reveals a creature designed to rush toward danger rather than flee from it—contrary to natural self-preservation. The theological implication is profound: God creates some beings with courage and purpose that transcends survival instinct. This points to humanity's higher calling to risk comfort and safety for kingdom purposes. The horse's joy in battle also anticipates Revelation's white horse whose rider brings righteous judgment (Revelation 19:11-14).

Historical Context

War horses were immensely valuable in ancient warfare, requiring years of specialized training and breeding. Their willingness to charge into battle despite arrows, spears, and noise was considered almost supernatural. God's question asks Job who gives horses this contrary-to-nature courage—the answer being divine design that prepares creatures for their appointed purposes.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What 'battles' has God prepared you for that require courage contrary to natural self-preservation?
2. How does the war horse's eager response to the trumpet challenge your response to God's call to difficult service?
3. In what ways do you need God to give you the courage to run toward danger rather than seek comfort and safety?

Interlinear Text

בְּאֵת־זֶה־רֹאשׁ־שָׁפֵךְ־רֹאשׁ־זֶה־אָמַר־שָׁפֵךְ־רֹאשׁ־זֶה־
among the trumpets He saith afar off and he smelleth
H1767 H7782 H559 H1889 H7350 H7306

מִלְחָמָה־עַמְּדָה־רִימָה־שְׁרִימָה־
the battle the thunder of the captains and the shouting
H4421 H7482 H8269 H8643

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