

Proverbs 21:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.

Analysis

Though horses are prepared for battle, salvation/victory belongs to the LORD. This balances human responsibility (preparation) with divine sovereignty (outcome). We do our part while acknowledging God alone grants success. This applies to spiritual warfare—we put on armor, but God gives victory.

Historical Context

Horses were military technology giving tactical advantage, yet Israel's history showed God could win battles regardless of military strength (Gideon, David vs. Goliath). Trust in chariots was condemned (Psalm 20:7).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you balance diligent preparation with trust in God's sovereign control?
2. Where are you tempted to trust your preparations rather than the LORD for victory?

Interlinear Text

בַּתְשׁוּעָה: אַ לִיהְתִּי הַ מִלְחַמָּת הַ לִי וּמִ מִצְרַיִם
The horse is prepared against the day of battle is of the LORD but safety
H5483 H3559 H3117 H4421 H3068 H8668

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 31:1 (References Lord): Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!

Psalms 20:7 (References Lord): Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

Psalms 68:20 (References Lord): He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto GOD the Lord belong the issues from death.

Psalms 147:10 (Parallel theme): He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man.

Psalms 3:3 (References Lord): But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

Psalms 3:8 (References Lord): Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah.

Ecclesiastes 9:11 (Parallel theme): I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

Jeremiah 3:23 (References Lord): Truly in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, and from the multitude of mountains: truly in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel.

Psalms 144:10 (Parallel theme): It is he that giveth salvation unto kings: who delivereth David his servant from the hurtful sword.

