

Psalm 20:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright.

Analysis

The contrast between 'they' (enemies trusting in chariots and horses, v.7) and 'we' (trusting in the LORD) reaches its culmination here. The Reformed understanding emphasizes that those who trust in created things rather than the Creator will inevitably fall, while those whose confidence rests in God's sovereign power will stand. This verse demonstrates the practical outworking of sola fide—faith alone in God's power, not human resources, brings ultimate victory.

Historical Context

In ancient warfare, chariots and horses represented supreme military technology. Israel, often outnumbered and out-equipped, learned to trust God's providence rather than military superiority. This verse would be sung before and after battles as testimony to God's faithfulness.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What modern 'chariots and horses' are you tempted to trust instead of God?

2. How has God demonstrated His faithfulness when you lacked human resources?

Interlinear Text

הַ פָּה
H1992 They are brought down
 H3766

כְּרֻעַ וּ
 and fallen
 H5307

לֹא נִפְלַּא
 H587

אָנוּ חַנְכָּנִים
 but we are risen
 H6965

וְתִּתְעִזֵּז:
and stand upright
H5749

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 125:1 (Parallel theme): They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.

Micah 7:8 (Resurrection): Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.