

# Psalms 76:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At thy rebuke, O God of Jacob, both the chariot and horse are cast into a dead sleep.

## Analysis

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**At thy rebuke, O God of Jacob, both the chariot and horse are cast into a dead sleep.** Divine speech alone—"thy rebuke" (וַעֲרַתְּךָ/ga'aratecha)—vanquishes military might. This verb denotes sharp, authoritative correction that stops opposition instantly. God needs no army; His word is sufficient weapon. This echoes Psalm 104:7, where mountains flee at God's rebuke, and anticipates Jesus rebuking wind and waves (Mark 4:39).

**"O God of Jacob"** again emphasizes covenant relationship (see 75:9). The God who preserved Jacob's family through famine, exodus, and wilderness will defend his descendants. This title reminds readers that the One who defeats empires is the same God who wrestles with individuals and transforms them (Genesis 32:24-30).

**"Both the chariot and horse are cast into a dead sleep"** depicts total military incapacitation. Chariots represented ancient warfare's most feared technology—swift, powerful, terrifying. Horses symbolized strength and mobility. Yet at God's rebuke, these instruments of war become impotent. **"Dead sleep"** (נִרְדָּמָה/nirdamu) suggests the sleep of death, recalling Exodus 15:1 where horse and rider were thrown into the sea. Human power collapses before divine authority.

## Historical Context

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This verse vividly describes Sennacherib's defeat when 185,000 Assyrian troops died overnight outside Jerusalem's walls (2 Kings 19:35). The Assyrians boasted superior military technology—iron chariots, trained cavalry, siege engines. Yet God's angel destroyed them without Israel lifting a sword. The mention of 'God of Jacob' recalls Jacob's vulnerability as a fleeing refugee dependent entirely on God's protection (Genesis 28, 32), now magnified to national scale as Jacob's descendants face overwhelming military odds.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. What modern 'chariots and horses'—impressive human technologies or powers—do you tend to fear more than trusting God's authority?
2. How does God's defense of His people through miraculous intervention inform Christian responses to persecution or opposition today?
3. What does it mean that God's 'rebuke' alone defeats armies—how should this shape our spiritual warfare understanding?

## Interlinear Text

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מִגַּעַר תִּבְּרָ	אֱלֹהֵי יִ	יַעֲקֹב בְּ	נִרְדָּם	וְכָבֹד
At thy rebuke	O God	of Jacob	are cast into a dead sleep	both the chariot
H1606	H430	H3290	H7290	H7393

וְסוּסִים:

and horse

H5483

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 15:1** (Parallel theme): Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

**Exodus 15:21** (Parallel theme): And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

**Psalms 80:16** (Parallel theme): It is burned with fire, it is cut down: they perish at the rebuke of thy countenance.