

Zechariah 10:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall be as mighty men, which tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle: and they shall fight, because the LORD is with them, and the riders on horses shall be confounded.

Analysis

And they shall be as mighty men, which tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle—(אֲנָשִׁים כָּבָרִים בָּזָבִים בְּטִיט חֹצֶות בְּמַלְּקָמָה) gibborim (mighty warriors) empowered by God trample enemies into mud, vivid imagery of total victory. **And they shall fight, because the LORD is with them**—divine presence ensures success. Immanuel ('God with us') theology pervades Scripture; presence, not numbers or strategy, guarantees victory.

And the riders on horses shall be confounded—(וְהַבִּישׁוּ רַכְבֵּי סָוסִים) enemy cavalry, supposedly superior military technology, will be hovish (shamed/dismayed). This recalls Egyptian chariots in the Red Sea (Exodus 14:28) and anticipates Revelation's vision of Christ's conquering ride (Revelation 19:11-16). God levels advantages: mounted warriors fall before foot soldiers empowered by divine presence. This principle applies spiritually: the church overcomes 'not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts' (Zechariah 4:6).

Historical Context

Maccabean victories exemplified this—Jewish forces repeatedly defeated superior Seleucid armies including war elephants and cavalry. Natural explanations fail;

only divine empowerment explains their success. This points forward to the church's spiritual victories over seemingly more powerful worldly opposition.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What 'horses' (advantages, technology, power) do your spiritual enemies possess that seem intimidating?
2. How does 'the LORD is with them' shift the equation in spiritual battles you currently face?
3. In what ways does the church today experience this principle of weaker instruments triumphing through God's presence?

Interlinear Text

וְיִהְיֶה	כִּי	בָּנִים	בָּנִים	בָּנִים
H1961		And they shall be as mighty	men which tread down	their enemies in the mire
	H1368		H947	H2916
עַמְּךָ	וְיִהְיֶה	בְּמִלְחָמָה	בְּמִלְחָמָה	בְּמִלְחָמָה
of the streets	in the battle	and they shall fight	C I	I
H2351	H4421	H3898	H3588	H3068
וְיִשְׁאַלְוּ	רַכְבָּם	רַכְבָּם	סִלְפִּים:	וְיִשְׁאַלְוּ
shall be confounded	is with them and the riders	on horses		
H3001	H7392	H5483		H5973

Additional Cross-References

Haggai 2:22 (Parallel theme): And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother.

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

Zechariah 9:13 (Parallel theme): When I have bent Judah for me, filled the bow with Ephraim, and raised up thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons, O Greece, and made thee as the sword of a mighty man.

Zechariah 12:8 (References Lord): In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them.

Isaiah 10:6 (Parallel theme): I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

Isaiah 25:10 (References Lord): For in this mountain shall the hand of the LORD rest, and Moab shall be trodden down under him, even as straw is trodden down for the dunghill.

Isaiah 41:12 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought.

Isaiah 8:9 (Parallel theme): Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces; and give ear, all ye of far countries: gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces; gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces.

Acts 7:22 (Parallel theme): And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.

Psalms 18:42 (Parallel theme): Then did I beat them small as the dust before the wind: I did cast them out as the dirt in the streets.

