

What's Wrong with Chariots?

Chariots in OT Times

- Patriarchal Period



Chariots in OT Times

- Patriarchal Period
- Captivity and Judges



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- Patriarchal Period
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- United Kingdom

Chariots in OT Times

- Patriarchal Period
- Captivity and Judges
- United Kingdom
- Divided Kingdom



What's Wrong with Chariots?

- God delights in destroying them – Ex. 14-15; Jud. 4:13-15; Nah. 2:13; Hag. 2:21-22

Exodus 15:4

Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast
into the sea;

His chosen captains also are drowned in the
Red Sea.

Judges 4:13-15

So Sisera gathered together all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people who were with him, from Harosheth Hagoyim to the River Kishon. 14 Then Deborah said to Barak, "Up! For this is the day in which the LORD has delivered Sisera into your hand. Has not the LORD gone out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men following him. 15 And **the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots** and all his army with the edge of the sword before Barak; and Sisera alighted from his chariot and fled away on foot.

Nahum 2:13

"Behold, I am against you," says the LORD of hosts, "**I will burn your chariots in smoke**, and the sword shall devour your young lions; I will cut off your prey from the earth, and the voice of your messengers shall be heard no more."

Haggai 2:21-22

"Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying: 'I will shake heaven and earth. 22 I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms; I will destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms. **I will overthrow the chariots** **And those who ride in them;** The horses and their riders shall come down, Every one by the sword of his brother.

What's Wrong with Chariots?

- God delights in destroying them – Ex. 15:4; Jud. 4:13-15; Nah. 2:13; Hag. 2:21-22
- Israel destroys them – Josh. 11:4-9; 1 Chr. 18:3-4

Joshua 11:4-9

So they went out, they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand that is on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots ... to fight against Israel. 6 But the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow about this time I will deliver all of them slain before Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire." 7 So Joshua and all the people of war with him came against them suddenly by the waters of Merom, and they attacked them. 8 And the LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel...; they attacked them until they left none of them remaining. 9 So Joshua did to them as the LORD had told him: **he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.**

1 Chronicles 18:3-4

And David defeated Hadadezer king of Zobah 4 David took from him one thousand chariots, seven thousand horsemen, and twenty thousand foot soldiers. Also **David hamstrung all the chariot horses**, except that he spared enough of them for one hundred chariots.

What's Wrong with Chariots?

- God delights in destroying them – Ex. 14-15; Jud. 4:13-15; Nah. 2:13; Hag. 2:21-22
- Israel destroys them – Josh. 11:4-9; 1 Chr. 18:3-4
- When Israel used them, they didn't do well

Trust in God

- Chariots represented a lack of faith in God
 - Do not fear chariots – Dt. 20:1-4

Deuteronomy 20:1-5

"When you go out to battle against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, **do not be afraid of them; for the LORD your God is with you, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.**

Trust in God

- Chariots represented a lack of faith in God
 - Do not fear chariots – Dt. 20:1-4
 - Do not multiply horses – Dt. 17:14-20

Deuteronomy 17:14-20

"When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,' 15 you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. 16 But **he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses**, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.'

Isaiah 2:6-8

For You have forsaken Your people, the house of Jacob, Because they are filled with eastern ways; They are soothsayers like the Philistines, And they are pleased with the children of foreigners. 7 Their land is also full of silver and gold, And there is no end to their treasures; **Their land is also full of horses, And there is no end to their chariots.** 8 Their land is also full of idols; They worship the work of their own hands, That which their own fingers have made.

Isaiah 31:1-3

Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, And rely on horses, Who trust in chariots because they are many, And in horsemen because they are very strong, But who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, Nor seek the LORD! ... 3 Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; And their horses are flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD stretches out His hand, Both he who helps will fall, And he who is helped will fall down; They all will perish together.

Trust in God

- Chariots represented a lack of faith in God
- We either trust in God's power or man's
 - Unstoppable when trusting in God – 1 Sam. 13-14

1 Samuel 14:6

Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us. For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few."

Trust in God

- Chariots represented a lack of faith in God
- We either trust in God's power or man's
 - Unstoppable when trusting in God – 1 Sam. 13-14
 - Defenseless when trusting in man – 2 Chr. 14, 16

2 Chronicles 14:9-12

Then Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and **three hundred chariots**, and he came to Mareshah. 10 So Asa went out against him, and they set the troops in battle array in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. 11 And Asa cried out to the LORD his God, and said, "LORD, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O LORD our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!" 12 So the LORD struck the Ethiopians before Asa and Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.

2 Chronicles 16:7-9

And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said to him: "Because you have relied on the king of Syria, and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand. 8 Were the Ethiopians and the Lubim not a huge army with **very many chariots** and horsemen? Yet, because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand. 9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars."

Trust in God

- Chariots represented a lack of faith in God
- We either trust in God's power or man's
- God's power is infinitely greater
 - He has more chariots – Ps. 68:17

Psalms 68:17

The chariots of God are twenty thousand,
Even thousands of thousands; The Lord is
among them as in Sinai, in the Holy Place.

Trust in God

- Chariots represented a lack of faith in God
- We either trust in God's power or man's
- God's power is infinitely greater
 - He has more chariots – Ps. 68:17
 - He has better chariots – 2 Kings 6:8-23

2 Kings 6:14-17

Therefore **he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.** 15 And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And **behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.**

Trust in God

- Chariots represented a lack of faith in God
- We either trust in God's power or man's
- God's power is infinitely greater
- Yet we are often held back by fear
 - But no weapon can overcome God – Is. 54:16-17
 - He will protect His people – Is. 41:8-12
 - Unless they leave Him – Is 59:1-2

Isaiah 54:16-17

"Behold, I have created the blacksmith Who blows the coals in the fire, Who brings forth an instrument for his work; And I have created the spoiler to destroy. 17 **No weapon formed against you shall prosper**, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me," Says the LORD.

Isaiah 41:8-12

"But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend. 9 You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, ... 10 **Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'** 11 "Behold, all those who were incensed against you Shall be ashamed and disgraced; They shall be as nothing, And those who strive with you shall perish. 12 You shall seek them and not find them-- Those who contended with you. Those who war against you Shall be as nothing, As a nonexistent thing.

Isaiah 59:1-2

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened,
That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy,
That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities
have separated you from your God; And
your sins have hidden His face from you,
So that He will not hear.

Trust in God

Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed;
He will answer him from His holy heaven With the
saving strength of His right hand.

**Some trust in chariots, and some in horses;
But we will remember the name of the LORD
our God.**

They have bowed down and fallen;
But we have risen and stand upright.

- Psalms 20:6-8