

Horses vain Hope for Victory

Alas for those who go down to Egypt for help
and who rely on horses,
who trust in chariots because they are many
and in horsemen because they are very strong,
but do not look to the Holy One of Israel
or consult the LORD! Isaiah 31,1

This is not a very blessed beginning, nevertheless the Lord has spoken even this word through His prophet for our benefit.

To start a chapter with "alas," is quite strong and God is quite emphatic about where we go for help.

Years ago when I was in a severe crisis, I decided to go in for an action and before that I went to church to pray. As I was turning the corner I heard this word distinctly, "a horse is a vain hope for victory," (Psalm 33, 17). Then I didn't even know where this word is so I rushed home and asked my mother and found that out. Then I had no option but to go on my knees. Till this day I do not know how the Lord scattered the schemes of those against me, but the Lord protected me heart, soul and body.

I still shudder what could have happened had I gone to the human help, disregarding God's insistence. But today it has almost become a fashion for Christians to either go to a lawyer or to lodge a complaint. I wonder whether we could really get justice there! Today the American court has absolved Anderson and Union Carbide company of the damage they did to Bhopal. Do the courts serve justice, even if it is the much hyped America?

Paul sneered at such people, I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to decide between one believer and another, but a believer goes to court against a believer—and before unbelievers at that?(I Corinthians 6, 5-6)

There is so much to think in what Paul says. These days we speak about our rights/copyrights, that we somehow are more concerned about our own reputation that we forget that it maligns the reputation of our God. Paul is such a wonderful example. He is not hurt when some one stole his ministry, but was rather thankful that God's kingdom spreads even by such methods.

Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defence of the gospel; the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice. Philippians 1,15-18.

Let us think about our reliance this day. Is it on Egyptian horses or the Lord who stretches out his hand, so that the helper will stumble, and the one helped will fall, and they will all perish together. Isaiah 31, 3

Let us get on our knees, surely whatever be your big issue, the battle belongs to the Lord and He is able to save you from whatever quagmire you have let yourself in to.

I pray God gives us the soul strength to trust in Him, rather than the false promises and securities of mortal man.