



## Bible Myth #12: Horses were Hamstrung

by steve@truepotentialmedia.com | Oct 11, 2017 | Bible Myths, Blog, Uncategorized | 87 comments

The idea that



Bible Myth #12: Horses were hamstrung



horses were hamstrung by Joshua's and David's men is a myth.

Although some translations of the Hebrew Scriptures say they were hamstrung, the accurate translation is that they were gelded.

Joshua 11:6. **And the LORD\* said to Joshua, "Do not be in awe because of them! For tomorrow about this time I AM will deliver them up, all slain before Israel: you will make geldings of their horses and burn their chariots with fire. God specifically told Joshua to geld the horses."**

David also gelded horses, recorded in 2 Samuel 8:4 and 1 Chronicles 18:3.

***And David smote Hadarezer king from Zobah to Hamath, as he went to establish his dominion by the river Euphrates. 4. And David took from him a thousand chariots and seven thousand horsemen and twenty thousand foot soldiers. David***

***also castrated all the chariot horses, but reserved of them a hundred for chariots.***

**The literal translation is castrated, making geldings of the war horses.**

To hamstring a horse would be terribly cruel and leave it crippled, so it could not be used at all to pull a wagon or to ride. Making the horse a gelding made it unsuitable for war as a chariot horse, but very useful for riding or pulling a wagon.

The word "hamstring" is from the Latin text, kept in various translations by tradition, but it not accurate.

**\*Excerpted from [Myths of the Bible](#)**

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**Tina** on May 11, 2022 at 13:04

I stumbled over this article as my dog attacked my sheep and severed the hamstring. For an animal to survive this a vet has to use a carbon fiber to stitch the two pieces of the tendon together. Even then it only heals 1/3 if the time. If not corrected by surgery, the animal cannot lift it's toe correctly and will drag the leg behind it, not putting weight on the foot. In a sheep we may be able to amputate, Or maybe create a permanent cast, but in a horse, if they can't load weight evenly on four feet, it causes founder very often in the feet being weighted too heavily. It's a slow Painful death. Part of the reason broken bones are a death sentence in a horse. Castration in this bible verse makes much more sense. The animals would be unfit for work for a few weeks, thus removing them from immediate battle, but then be calm geldings rather than stallions.

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