

## ~YEHOWAH OF ARMIES (290)

- This expression, found 283 times, with variations, in the Scriptures, translates the **Hebrew** *Yeho-wah' tseva- 'ohth'*. The prophetic books, particularly Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Zechariah, contain by far the majority of its occurrences. Paul and James, quoting from or alluding to the prophecies, used the expression, transliterated into Greek, in their writings.
- Also, just as Isaiah had said aforetime; Unless **Yehowah of armies** had left a seed to us, we should have become just like Sodom, and we should have been made just like Gomorrah. (**Romans 9:29**)
- Look! The wages due the workers who harvested your fields but which are held up by you, keep crying out, and the calls for help on the part of the reapers have entered into the ears of **Yehowah of armies**. (**James 5:4**)
- Unless **Yehowah of armies** himself had left remaining to us just a few survivors, we should have become just like Sodom, we should have resembled Gomorrah itself. (**Isaiah 1:9**)
- The **Hebrew** word *tsa-va ' , singular, plural, tseva- 'ohth'*, basically means a literal army of soldiers, or combat forces, as at;
- Now it came about at that time that Abimelech together with Phicol the chief of his **army** said to Abraham; God is with you in everything you are doing. (**Genesis 21:22**)
- And it must occur that when the officers have finished speaking to the people, they must also appoint chiefs of the armies at the head of the people. (**Deuteronomy 20:9**)
- And many other texts. However, the term is also used in a figurative sense as in the heavens and the earth and all their **army**, or the sun and the moon and the stars, all the **army** of the heavens.
- Thus the heavens and the earth and all their **army** came to their completion. (**Genesis 2:1**)
- And that you may not raise your eyes to the heavens and indeed

see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the **army** of the heavens, and actually get seduced and bow down to them and serve them, which Yehowah your God has apportioned to all the peoples under the whole heavens. (**Deuteronomy 4:19**)

- The plural form, *tseva- 'ohth'*, is employed a number of times as applying to the Israelite forces, as at;
- This is the Aaron and Moses to whom Yehowah said; Bring the sons of Israel out from the land of Egypt according to their **armies**. (**Exodus 6:26**)
- Israelite forces, as at;
- And Pharaoh will not listen to you men, and I shall have to lay my hand upon Egypt and bring my armies, my people, the sons of Israel, out from the land of Egypt with great judgments. (**Exodus 7:4**)
- These were the stages of the sons of Israel who went out of the land of Egypt in their **armies** by the hand of Moses and Aaron.
- These were the stages of the sons of Israel who went out of the land of Egypt in their **armies** by the hand of Moses and Aaron. (**Numbers 33:1**)
- But now you have cast off and keep humiliating us, and you do not go forth with our **armies**. (**Psalms 44:9**)
- Is it not you, O God, who have cast us off and who do not go forth with our **armies** as God? (**Psalms 60:10**)
- Some scholars believe that the **armies** in the expression **Yehowah of armies** include not only the angelic forces but also the **Israelite army** and the inanimate heavenly bodies. However, it appears that the **armies** signified are primarily, if not exclusively, the angelic forces.
- When Joshua saw an angelic visitor near Jericho and asked him if he was for Israel or for the enemy side, the reply was; No, but I as prince of the **army** of Yehowah I have now come.
- And it came about when Joshua happened to be by Jericho that he proceeded to raise his eyes and look, and there there was a man standing in front of him with his drawn sword in his hand.

So Joshua walked up to him and said to him; Are you for us or for our adversaries? (**Joshua 5:13**)

- To this he said; No, but I, as prince of the army of Yehowah I have now come. With that Joshua fell on his face to the earth and prostrated himself and said to him; What is my lord saying to his servant? (**Joshua 5:14**)
- In turn the prince of the army of Yehowah said to Joshua; Draw your sandals from off your feet, because the place on which you are standing is holy. At once Joshua did so. (**Joshua 5:15**)
- The prophet Micaiah told Kings Ahab and Jehoshaphat, I certainly see Yehowah sitting upon his throne and all the army of the heavens standing by him, to his right and to his left, clearly referring to Yehowah's spirit sons.
- And he went on to say; Therefore hear the word of Yehowah: I certainly see Yehowah sitting upon his throne and all the army of the heavens standing by him, to his right and to his left. (**1 Kings 22:19**)
- And Yehowah proceeded to say; Who will fool Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And this one began to say something like this, while that one was saying something like that. (**1 Kings 22:20**)
- Finally a spirit came out and stood before Yehowah and said; I myself shall fool him. At that Yehowah said to him; By what means? (**1 Kings 22:21**)
- The use of the plural form in, **Yehowah of armies** is appropriate, inasmuch as the angelic forces are described not only in divisions of cherubs, seraphs, and angels.
- Seraphs were standing above him. Each one had six wings. With two he kept his face covered, and with two he kept his feet covered, and with two he would fly about. (**Isaiah 6:2**)
- And this one called to that one and said; Holy, holy, holy is Yehowah of armies. The fullness of all the earth is his glory. (**Isaiah 6:3**)
- And so he drove the man out and posted at the east of the

garden of Eden the cherubs and the flaming blade of a sword that was turning itself continually to guard the way to the tree of life. (**Genesis 3:24**)

- And I saw, and I heard a voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders, and the number of them was myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands. (**Revelation 5:11**)
- But also as forming organized groups, so that Jesus Christ could speak of having more than twelve legions of angels available at his call.
- Or do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father to supply me at this moment more than twelve legions of angels? (**Matthew 26:53**)
- In Hezekiah's plea to Yehowah for help he called him, **Yehowah of armies**, the God of Israel, sitting upon the cherubs, evidently alluding to the ark of the covenant and the cherub figures on its cover, symbolizing Yehowah's heavenly throne.
- O Yehowah of armies, the God of Israel, sitting upon the cherubs, you alone are the true God of all the kingdoms of the earth. You yourself have made the heavens and the earth. (**Isaiah 37:16**)
- So the people sent to Shiloh and carried from there the ark of the covenant of Yehowah of armies, who is sitting upon the cherubs. And the two sons of Eli were there with the ark of the covenant of the true God, namely, Hophni and Phinehas. (**1 Samuel 4:4**)
- Then David and all the people that were with him rose up and went to Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of the true God, where a name is called on, the name of Yehowah of armies, sitting on the cherubs. (**2 Samuel 6:2**)
- Elisha's fearful servant was reassured by a miraculous vision in which he saw the mountains around the besieged city of Elisha's residence full of horses and war chariots of fire, part of Yehowah's angelic hosts.
- When the minister of the man of the true God rose early to get up, and went out, why, there a military force was surrounding the city with horses and war chariots. At once his attendant said

to him; Alas, my master! What shall we do? (**2 Kings 6:15**)

- But he said; Do not be afraid, for there are more who are with us than those who are with them. (**2 Kings 6:16**)
- And Elisha began to pray and say; O Yehowah, open his eyes, please, that he may see. Immediately Yehowah opened the attendants eyes, so that he saw, and, look! The mountainous region was full of horses and war chariots of fire all around Elisha. (**2 Kings 6:17**)
- The expression, **Yehowah of armies**, thus conveys the sense of power, the power held by the Sovereign Ruler of the universe, who has at his command vast forces of spirit creatures.
- Bless Yehowah, O you angels of his, mighty in power, carrying out his word, by listening to the voice of his word. (**Psalms 103:20**)
- Bless Yehowah, **all you armies** of his, you ministers of his, doing his will. (**Psalms 103:21**)
- Praise Yah, you people! Praise Yehowah from the heavens, praise him in the heights. (**Psalms 148:1**)
- Praise him, all you his angels. Praise him, all you his **army**. (**Psalms 148:2**)
- Therefore the utterance of the true Lord, **Yehowah of armies**, the Powerful One of Israel, is; Aha! I shall relieve myself of my adversaries, and I will avenge myself on my enemies. (**Isaiah 1:24**)
- Alas, O Sovereign Lord Yehowah! Here you yourself have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm. The whole matter is not too wonderful for you yourself. (**Jeremiah 32:17**)
- The One exercising loving-kindness toward thousands, and repaying the error of the fathers into the bosom of their sons after them, the true God, the great One, the mighty One, **Yehowah of armies** being his name. (**Jeremiah 32:18**)

- It thus commands deep respect and awe, while at the same time being a source of comfort and encouragement to Yehowah's servants. David, alone and unaided by any earthly military force, challenged the formidable Philistine Goliath in **the name of Yehowah of armies**, the God of the battle lines of Israel.
- The One exercising loving-kindness toward thousands, and repaying the error of the fathers into the bosom of their sons after them, the true God, the great One, the mighty One, Yehowah of armies being his name. (**Jeremiah 32:18**)
- Not only in times of literal battle but also in all other trialsome situations or occasions of importance God's people as a whole and as individuals could take courage and hope from recognizing the majesty of Yehowah's sovereign position, reflected in his control over the mighty forces serving from his heavenly courts.
- Then Hannah got up after they had eaten in Shiloh and after the drinking, while Eli the priest was sitting upon the seat by the doorpost of the temple of Yehowah. (**1 Samuel 1:9**)
- And she was bitter of soul, and she began to pray to Yehowah and to weep greatly. (**1 Samuel 1:10**)
- And she went on to make a vow and say; O Yehowah of armies, if you will without fail look upon the affliction of your slave girl and actually remember me, and you will not forget your slave girl and actually give to your slave girl a male offspring, I will give him to Yehowah all the days of his life, and no razor will come upon his head. (**1 Samuel 1:11**)
- When David was finished with offering up the burnt sacrifices and the communion sacrifices, he then blessed the people in the name of Yehowah of armies. (**2 Samuel 6:18**)
- And now, Yehowah God, the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house carry out to time indefinite and do just as you have spoken. (**2 Samuel 7:25**)
- And let your own name become great to time indefinite, saying; Yehowah of armies is God over Israel, and let the very house of your servant David become firmly established before you. (**2 Samuel 7:26**)

- For you, Yehowah of armies the God of Israel, have made a revelation to your servants ear, saying; A house I shall build for you. That is why your servant has taken heart to pray to you with this prayer. (**2 Samuel 7:27**)
- And now, O Sovereign Lord Yehowah, you are the true God, and as for your words, let them prove to be truth, since you promise to your servant this goodness. (**2 Samuel 7:28**)
- And now take it upon yourself and bless the house of your servant for it to continue to time indefinite before you, for you yourself, O Sovereign Lord Yehowah, have promised, and due to your blessing let the house of your servant be blessed to time indefinite. (**2 Samuel 7:29**)
- The use of the expression, **Yehowah of armies**, by the prophets supplied yet one more reason for those hearing the prophecies to be certain of their fulfillment.