

## ~ARMY (1864)

- Israelite
- Exemptions
- Army arrangements After Conquest Of Canaan
- Under The Monarchy
- Cavalry And Chariot Units
- During The Divided Kingdom
- Roman
- Those Known As Early Christians
- Heavenly
- As A Fighting Force They Are Invincible

- A large body of men organized and trained for warfare on land. The common Hebrew term for army *tsa-va'* is usually used with reference to human armed forces.
- From twenty years old upward, everyone going out to the army in Israel. You should register them according to their armies, you and Aaron (**Numbers 1:3**)
- But it can also denote spirit creatures in the heavens.
- 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 physical heavenly bodies.
- 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 Hebrew *cha'yil*, evidently from a root meaning endure.
- There is nothing left over for him to devour, that is why his well-being will not endure. (**Job 20:21**)
- Is used to refer to a military force and a combat force.

- Now Toi the king of Hamath got to hear that David had struck down all the **military force** of Hadadezer. (2 Samuel 8:9)
- And it came about at the time of the years return, at the time that kings sally forth, that Joab proceeded to lead the **combat force** of the **army** and lay the land of the sons of Ammon in ruin and to come and besiege Rabbah, while David was dwelling in Jerusalem, and Joab went on to strike Rabbah and throw it down. (1 Chronicles 20:1)
- But *cha'yil*, also means, **ability, vital energy, capableness, resources, wealth.**
- And their brothers, heads of the house of their forefathers, a thousand seven hundred and sixty, mighty men of **ability** for the work of the service of the house of the true God. (1 Chronicles 9:13)
- Bless, O Yehowah, his **vital energy**, and may you show pleasure in the activity of his hands. Wound severely in their hips those who rise up against him, and those who intensely hate him, that they may not rise up. (Deuteronomy 33:11)
- There are many daughters that have shown **capableness**, but you, you have ascended above them all. (Proverbs 31:29)
- For before the boy will know how to call out; My father! And; My mother! One will carry away the **resources** of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria before the king of Assyria. (Isaiah 8:4)
- By your wisdom and by your discernment you have made **wealth** for your own self, and you keep getting gold and silver in your storehouses. (Ezekiel 28:4)
- The Hebrew *gedhudh'* denotes a **marauder band** or **troops**.
- For by you I can run against a **marauder band**, by my God I can climb a wall. (2 Samuel 22:30)
- At this Amaziah said to the man of the true God; But what is there to do about the hundred talents that I have given to the **troops** of Israel? To this the man of the true God said; There exists with Yehowah the means to give you much more than this. (2 Chronicles 25:9)

- Of the four **Greek** terms referring to an **army** in the Scriptures, three *stra-ti-a'*, *stra'teu-ma*, and *stra-to'pe-don*, come from the **Greek** root *stra-tos'*, basically referring to an **encamped army**, as opposed to one formed into battle lines. *Strato'pe-don*, containing the element *pe'don* ground or earth, is appropriately rendered **encamped army**.
- Furthermore, when you see Jerusalem surrounded by **encamped armies**, then know that the desolating of her has drawn near. (**Luke 21:20**)
- The **Greek** term *pa-rem-bo-le'* taken from *pa-ra'* meaning beside and *bal'lo*, throw, literally refers to the **distribution or arranging of soldiers in battle order**. It can mean **army, soldiers quarters, or camp**.
- Stayed the force of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from a weak state were made powerful, became valiant in war, routed the **armies** of foreigners. (**Hebrews 11:34**)
- But some in the crowd began shouting out one thing, and others another. So, being unable himself to learn anything certain because of the tumult, he commanded him to be brought to the **soldiers quarters**. (**Acts of Apostles 21:34**)
- And they advanced over the breadth of the earth and encircled the **camp** of the holy one's and the beloved city. But fire came down out of heaven and devoured them. (**Revelation 20:9**)
- From the time of Abraham, Yehowah's pre-Christian servants engaged in **armed** warfare. After the Elamite Chedorlaomer and his allies carried off Abraham's nephew Lot and his household, Abraham mustered his **army** of trained men, three hundred and eighteen slaves, and with his neighboring confederates went in pursuit up to Dan, about 200 kilometers (120 miles) North-Northeast. He then divided the forces and attacked by night, a strategy repeatedly employed in Biblical times.
- After that a man who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew. He was then tabernacling among the big trees of Mamre the Amorite, the brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner, and they were confederates of Abram. (**Genesis 14:13**)
- Thus Abram got to hear that his brother had been taken captive. With that he mustered his trained men, three hundred and

eighteen slaves born in his household, and went in pursuit up to Dan. (**Genesis 14:14**)

- And by night he resorted to dividing his **forces**, he and his slaves, against them, and thus he defeated them and kept in pursuit of them up to Hobah, which is north of Damascus. (**Genesis 14:15**)
- And he proceeded to recover all the goods, and he recovered also Lot his brother and his goods and also the women and the people. (**Genesis 14:16**)

## •• Israelite

- The nation of Israel, over 400 years later, left Egypt in great haste, but in well-organized battle formation, possibly like a five-part **army** composed of a main body with vanguard, rear guard, and two wings.
- 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**)
- Hence God made the people go round about by the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. But it was in battle formation that the sons of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt. (**Exodus 13:18**)
- The Egyptian **army** in pursuit consisted of six hundred chosen chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt. Each chariot usually carried three men, one to manage the horses and two to fight, likely archers, since the bow was the principal offensive weapon of the Egyptians. The cavalry accompanied them.
- And he proceeded to take six hundred chosen chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt and warriors upon every one of them. (**Exodus 14:7**)
- And the Egyptians went chasing after them, and all the chariot horses of Pharaoh and his cavalymen and his military forces were overtaking them while camping by the sea, by Pihahiroth in view of Baal-zephon. (**Exodus 14:9**)
- As for me, here I am letting the hearts of the Egyptians become obstinate, that they may go in after them and that I may get glory for myself by means of Pharaoh and all his military forces,

his war chariots and his cavalrymen. ([Exodus 14:17](#))

- According to Josephus [[Jewish Antiquities, II, 324, xv, 3](#)], the Hebrews were pursued by 600 chariots along with 50,000 horsemen and heavy infantry to the number of 200,000.

### **See Also ADJUTANT**

- Soon after the Exodus the Israelites engaged in their first military combat as a freed people. The Amalekites attacked them at Rephidim, in the region of Mount Sinai. At Moses direction, Joshua quickly assembled a **fighting force**. The battle lasted the major part of the day, and in spite of their inexperience in the art of warfare, Yehowah gave Israel the victory.
- And the Amalekites proceeded to come and fight against Israel in Rephidim. ([Exodus 17:8](#))
- At this Moses said to Joshua; Choose men for us and go out, fight against the Amalekites. Tomorrow I am stationing myself upon the top of the hill, with the rod of the true God in my hand. ([Exodus 17:9](#))
- Then Joshua did just as Moses had said to him, in order to fight against the Amalekites, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. ([Exodus 17:10](#))
- And it occurred that as soon as Moses would lift his hand up, the Israelites proved superior, but as soon as he would let down his hand, the Amalekites proved superior. ([Exodus 17:11](#))
- When the hands of Moses were heavy, then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat upon it, and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on this side and the other on that side, so that his hands held steady until the sun set. ([Exodus 17:12](#))
- Hence Joshua vanquished Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. ([Exodus 17:13](#))
- Yehowah now said to Moses; Write this as a memorial in the book and propound it in Joshua's ears, I shall completely wipe out the remembrance of Amalek from under the heavens. ([Exodus 17:14](#))

- About a year after the Exodus, a count was taken of those eligible for service in the **army**, males 20 years old and upward. The census totaled 603,550.
- And Yehowah proceeded to speak to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month in the second year of their coming out of the land of Egypt, and he said. (**Numbers 1:1**)
- Take the sum of the whole assembly of the sons of Israel according to their families, according to the house of their fathers, by the number of names, all the males, head by head of them. (**Numbers 1:2**)
- From twenty years old upward, everyone going out to the **army** in Israel. You should register them according to their **armies**, you and Aaron (**Numbers 1:3**)
- And all those registered of the sons of Israel according to the house of their fathers from twenty years old upward, everyone going out to the **army** in Israel, came to be. (**Numbers 1:45**)
- Yes, all those registered came to be six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty. (**Numbers 1:46**)
- A similar count toward the end of the wilderness journey showed that the **army** strength had dropped slightly to 601,730.
- Take the sum of the whole assembly of the sons of Israel from twenty years of age and upward, according to the house of their fathers, all those going out to the **army** in Israel. (**Numbers 26:2**)
- These were the registered one's of the sons of Israel, six hundred and one thousand seven hundred and thirty. (**Numbers 26:51**)
- The Levites were exempt from **army** duty, hence not included in these figures but were numbered separately.
- However, the Levites according to the tribe of their fathers did not get registered in among them. (**Numbers 1:47**)
- Accordingly Yehowah spoke to Moses, saying; (**Numbers 1:48**)
- Only the tribe of Levi you must not register, and the sum of them

- you must not take in among the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 1:49**)
- **And Yehowah spoke further to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, saying; (**Numbers 3:14**)**
  - **Register the sons of Levi according to the house of their fathers by their families. Every male from a month old upward you should register. (**Numbers 3:15**)**
  - **And Moses began to register them at the order of Yehowah, just as he had been commanded. (**Numbers 3:16**)**
  - **And these came to be the sons of Levi by their names: Gershon and Kohath and Merari. (**Numbers 3:17**)**
  - **Now these were the names of the sons of Gershon by their families: Libni and Shimei. (**Numbers 3:18**)**
  - **And the sons of Kohath by their families were Amram and Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel. (**Numbers 3:19**)**
  - **And the sons of Merari by their families were Mahli and Mushi. These were the families of the Levites according to the house of their fathers. (**Numbers 3:20**)**
  - **Of Gershon there were the family of the Libnites and the family of the Shimeites. These were the families of the Gershonites. (**Numbers 3:21**)**
  - **Their registered one's were by number of all males from a month old upward. Their registered one's were seven thousand five hundred. (**Numbers 3:22**)**
  - **The families of the Gershonites were behind the tabernacle. They were encamped to the west. (**Numbers 3:23**)**
  - **And the chieftain of the paternal house for the Gershonites was Eliasaph the son of Lael. (**Numbers 3:24**)**
  - **And the obligation of the sons of Gershon in the tent of meeting was the tabernacle and the tent, its covering and the screen of the entrance of the tent of meeting. (**Numbers 3:25**)**
  - **And the hangings of the courtyard and the screen of the entrance**

- of the courtyard that is round about the tabernacle and the altar, and its tent cords, for all its service. (**Numbers 3:26**)
- **And of Kohath there were the family of the Amramites and the family of the Izharites and the family of the Hebronites and the family of the Uzzielites. These were the families of the Kohathites. (**Numbers 3:27**)**
  - **Among the number of all the males from a month old upward there were eight thousand six hundred, taking care of the obligation to the holy place. (**Numbers 3:28**)**
  - **The families of the sons of Kohath were encamped on the side of the tabernacle to the south. (**Numbers 3:29**)**
  - **And the chieftain of the paternal house for the families of the Kohathites was Elizaphan the son of Uzziel. (**Numbers 3:30**)**
  - **And their obligation was the Ark and the table and the lampstand and the altars and the utensils of the holy place with which they would minister and the screen, and all its service. (**Numbers 3:31**)**
  - **And the chieftain of the chieftains of the Levites was Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, who had the oversight of those taking care of the obligation to the holy place. (**Numbers 3:32**)**
  - **Of Merari there were the family of the Mahlites and the family of the Mushites. These were the families of Merari. (**Numbers 3:33**)**
  - **And their registered one's by the number of all the males from a month old upward were six thousand two hundred. (**Numbers 3:34**)**
  - **And the chieftain of the paternal house for the families of Merari was Zuriel the son of Abihail. They were encamped on the side of the tabernacle toward the north. (**Numbers 3:35**)**
  - **And the oversight for which the sons of Merari were obligated was over the panel frames of the tabernacle and its bars and its pillars and its socket pedestals and all its utensils and all its service. (**Numbers 3:36**)**
  - **And the pillars of the courtyard round about and their socket**



pedestals and their tent pins and their tent cords. (**Numbers 3:37**)

- And those camping before the tabernacle toward the east, before the tent of meeting toward the sunrising, were Moses and Aaron and his sons, those taking care of the obligation to the sanctuary, as the obligation for the sons of Israel. And any stranger coming near would be put to death. (**Numbers 3:38**)
- All the registered one's of the Levites whom Moses and Aaron registered at the order of Yehowah by their families, all the males from a month old upward, were twenty-two thousand. (**Numbers 3:39**)
- Now these were the registered one's of the Levites by their families: Of Gershon the family of the Gershonites, of Kohath the family of the Kohathites, of Merari the family of the Merarites. (**Numbers 26:57**)
- And their registered one's amounted to twenty-three thousand, all males from a month old and upward. For they did not get registered in among the sons of Israel, because no inheritance was to be given to them in among the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 26:62**)

## ·· Exemptions

- Besides the tribe of Levi, the following **exemptions** from military service were granted.
- (1) The man who **has built a new house** and has not inaugurated it
- (2) The man that has **planted a vineyard** and not begun to use it
- (3) The man that has **become engaged to a woman** and has not taken her
- (4) The one who marries **should not go out into the army**, but should continue exempt at his house **for one year**
- (5) The man that **is fearful and fainthearted**.
- The officers too must speak to the people, saying; Who is the

- man that has built a new house and has not inaugurated it? Let him go and return to his house, for fear he may die in the battle and another man should inaugurate it. (**Deuteronomy 20:5**)
- And who is the man that has planted a vineyard and not begun to use it? Let him go and return to his house, for fear he may die in the battle and another man should begin to use it. (**Deuteronomy 20:6**)
  - And who is the man that has become engaged to a woman and has not taken her? Let him go and return to his house, for fear he may die in the battle and another man should take her. (**Deuteronomy 20:7**)
  - And the officers must speak further to the people and say; Who is the man that is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go and return to his house, that he may not cause the hearts of his brothers to melt as his own heart. (**Deuteronomy 20:8**)
  - In case a man takes a new wife, he should not go out into the **army**, nor should anything else be imposed onto him. He should continue exempt at his house for one year, and he must make his wife whom he has taken rejoice. (**Deuteronomy 24:5**)

### · Army Arrangements After Conquest Of Canaan

- After the general settlement in Canaan there was little need for a large standing **army**, border skirmishes were usually handled by the local tribes involved. When it was necessary to assemble a larger unified fighting force from several tribes, Yehowah raised up Judges to take command. The call to **arms** was accomplished in different ways, trumpet signals, messengers, or tokens were sent to stir the fighting men to action.
- And in case you should enter into war in your land against the oppressor who is harassing you, you must also sound a war call on the trumpets, and you will certainly be remembered before Yehowah your God and be saved from your enemies. (**Numbers 10:9**)
- And it came about that when he got there he began blowing the horn in the mountainous region of Ephraim, and the sons of Israel began going down with him out of the mountainous region, he being at their head. (**Judges 3:27**)

- **And he sent out messengers through all of Manasseh, and they too got to be called together after him. He also sent out messengers through Asher and Zebulun and Naphtali, and they came on up to meet him. (Judges 6:35)**
- **Then he entered his house and took the slaughtering knife and laid hold of his concubine and cut her up according to her bones into twelve pieces and sent her into every territory of Israel. (Judges 19:29)**
- **So he took a pair of bulls and cut them in pieces and sent these into all the territory of Israel by the hand of the messengers, saying; Whoever of us is not going out as a follower of Saul and of Samuel, this is the way it will be done to his cattle! And the dread of Yehowah began to fall upon the people so that they came out as one man. (1 Samuel 11:7)**
- **Warriors appear to have furnished their own weapons: swords, spears, lances, darts, slings, bows, and arrows. The men generally were responsible for their own foodstuffs, hence Jesse sent provisions for his sons in Saul's army.**
- **Then Jesse said to David his son; Take, please, to your brothers this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers. (1 Samuel 17:17)**
- **And these ten portions of milk you should bring to the chief of the thousand, also, you should look after your own brothers as regards their welfare, and a token from them you should take. (1 Samuel 17:18)**
- **There is one case, however, when 10 percent of the volunteers were set aside to procure provisions for the rest.**
- **And we must take ten men out of a hundred of all the tribes of Israel, and a hundred out of a thousand, and a thousand out of ten thousand, to procure provisions for the people, that they may take action by going against Gibeah of Benjamin, in view of all the disgraceful folly that they did in Israel. (Judges 20:10)**
- **Yehowah's presence in Israel's camp called for sanctity, ceremonial cleanness on the part of the soldiers.**

- **In case you go out into camp against your enemies, you must also keep yourself from every bad thing. (Deuteronomy 23:9)**
- **In case there happens to be in you a man who does not continue clean, because of a pollution that occurs at night, he must also go outside the camp. He may not come into the midst of the camp. (Deuteronomy 23:10)**
- **And it must occur that at the falling of evening he should wash with water, and at the setting of the sun he may come into the midst of the camp. (Deuteronomy 23:11)**
- **And a private place should be at your service outside the camp, and you must go out there. (Deuteronomy 23:12)**
- **And a peg should be at your service along with your implements, and it must occur that when you squat outside, you must also dig a hole with it and turn and cover your excrement. (Deuteronomy 23:13)**
- **For Yehowah your God is walking about within your camp to deliver you and to abandon your enemies to you, and your camp must prove to be holy, that he may see nothing indecent in you and certainly turn away from accompanying you. (Deuteronomy 23:14)**
- **As sexual intercourse made a man unclean until the next day, under the Law, both David and Uriah carefully avoided sex relations while on active duty.**
- **Now in case a man has an emission of semen go out from him, he must then bathe all his flesh in water and be unclean until the evening. (Leviticus 15:16)**
- **And any garment and any skin upon which the emission of semen gets to be must be washed with water and be unclean until the evening. (Leviticus 15:17)**
- **As for a woman with whom a man may lie down with an emission of semen, they must bathe in water and be unclean until the evening. (Leviticus 15:18)**
- **Later David came into Nob to Ahimelech the priest, and**

- Ahimelech began to tremble at meeting David and then said to him; Why is it you are by yourself, and no one is with you? (**1 Samuel 21:1**)
- At this David said to Ahimelech the priest; The king himself commanded me as to a matter, and he went on to say to me; Let no one know anything at all of the matter concerning which I am sending you and concerning which I have commanded you. And I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such a place. (**1 Samuel 21:2**)
  - And now, if there are five loaves of bread at your disposal, just give them into my hand, or whatever may be found. (**1 Samuel 21:3**)
  - But the priest answered David and said; There is no ordinary bread under my hand, but there is holy bread, provided that the young men have at least kept themselves from womankind. (**1 Samuel 21:4**)
  - So David answered the priest and said to him; But womankind has been kept away from us the same as formerly when I went out, and the organisms of the young men continue holy, although the mission itself is ordinary. And how much more so today, when one becomes holy in his organism? (**1 Samuel 21:5**)
  - At that the priest gave him what was holy, because there happened to be no bread there but the showbread that had been removed from before Yehowah so as to place fresh bread there on the day of its being taken away. (**1 Samuel 21:6**)
  - At this David sent to Joab, saying; Send to me Uriah the Hittite. So Joab sent Uriah to David. (**2 Samuel 11:6**)
  - When Uriah came to him, David began to ask how Joab was getting along and how the people were getting along and how the war was getting along. (**2 Samuel 11:7**)
  - Finally David said to Uriah; Go down to your house and bathe your feet. Accordingly Uriah went out from the king's house, and the king's courtesy gift went out following him. (**2 Samuel 11:8**)
  - However, Uriah lay down at the entrance of the king's house with all the other servants of his lord, and he did not go down to his

own house. (2 Samuel 11:9)

- So they told David, saying; Uriah did not go down to his own house. Upon that David said to Uriah; It is from a journey that you have come in, is it not? Why have you not gone down to your own house? (2 Samuel 11:10)
- At this Uriah said to David; The Ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping on the face of the field, and I, shall I go into my own house to eat and drink and to lie down with my wife? As you are living and as your soul is living, I shall not do this thing! (2 Samuel 11:11)
- The **armies** of pagan nations often raped the women of conquered cities, but not so the victorious soldiers of Israel. Nor were they permitted for a month to marry a captive woman.
- In case you go out to the battle against your enemies and Yehowah your God has given them into your hand and you have carried them away captive. (Deuteronomy 21:10)
- And you have seen among the captives a woman beautiful in form, and you have got attached to her and taken her for your wife. (Deuteronomy 21:11)
- You must then bring her into the midst of your house. She must now shave her head and attend to her nails. (Deuteronomy 21:12)
- And remove the mantle of her captivity from off her and dwell in your house and weep for her father and her mother a whole lunar month, and after that you should have relations with her, and you must take possession of her as your bride, and she must become your wife. (Deuteronomy 21:13)
- Israel's ultimate victories depended on Yehowah, yet good handling of the **army** was necessary. This responsibility rested on appointed officers and chiefs over thousands and over hundreds. Priests were assigned to encourage and to give direction and purpose to the campaigns.
- Then Moses sent them out, a thousand of each tribe, to the **army**, them and Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest to the army, and

- the holy utensils and the trumpets for blowing calls were in his hand. (**Numbers 31:6**)
- **And Moses grew indignant at the appointed men of the combat forces, the chiefs of the thousands and the chiefs of the hundreds who were coming in from the military expedition. (**Numbers 31:14**)**
  - **And it must occur that when you have drawn near to the battle, the priest must also approach and speak to the people. (**Deuteronomy 20:2**)**
  - **And he must say to them, Hear, O Israel, you are drawing near today to the battle against your enemies. Do not let your hearts be timid. Do not be afraid and run in panic or shudder because of them. (**Deuteronomy 20:3**)**
  - **For Yehowah your God is marching with you to fight for you against your enemies so as to save you. (**Deuteronomy 20:4**)**
  - **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**)**
  - **During the days of the Judges, the one whom Yehowah raised up led the **army** personally into battle. The judge also planned the tactics and strategy. He deployed his forces in various ways, division into units, usually three, attack by surprise, ambush, frontal assault, securing river fords, and so forth.**
  - **After that Joshua sent them out and they marched to the place of ambush and took up quarters between Bethel and Ai to the west of Ai, while Joshua kept lodging on that night in the midst of the people. (**Joshua 8:9**)**
  - **Then Joshua rose up early in the morning and reviewed the people and went up, he and the older men of Israel, before the people to Ai. (**Joshua 8:10**)**
  - **And all the people of war who were with him went up, that they might approach and get in front of the city, and they proceeded to camp to the north of Ai, with the valley between them and Ai. (**Joshua 8:11**)**

- **In the meantime he took about five thousand men and set them as an ambush between Bethel and Ai, to the west of the city. (Joshua 8:12)**
- **So the people set the main camp that was to the north of the city and the extreme rear of it that was to the west of the city, and Joshua proceeded to go during that night into the middle of the low plain. (Joshua 8:13)**
- **And it came about that, as soon as the king of Ai saw it, then the men of the city got in a hurry and rose up early and went out to meet Israel in battle, he and all his people, at the appointed time, before the desert plain. As for him, he did not know that there was an ambush against him to the rear of the city. (Joshua 8:14)**
- **When Joshua and all Israel suffered a blow before them, then they took to flight by the way of the wilderness. (Joshua 8:15)**
- **At that all the people who were in the city were called out to chase after them, and they went chasing after Joshua and got to be drawn away from the city. (Joshua 8:16)**
- **And there was not a man remaining in Ai and Bethel that did not go out after Israel, so that they left the city wide open and went chasing after Israel. (Joshua 8:17)**
- **Yehowah now said to Joshua; Stretch out the javelin that is in your hand toward Ai, for into your hand I shall give it. Accordingly Joshua stretched out the javelin that was in his hand toward the city. (Joshua 8:18)**
- **And the ambush rose up quickly from its place, and they began to run at the instant that he stretched out his hand, and they proceeded to enter the city and capture it. Then they hurried and set the city on fire. (Joshua 8:19)**
- **And the men of Ai began to turn back and look, and there the smoke of the city ascended to the heavens, and there proved to be no ability in them to flee this way or that. And the people that were fleeing to the wilderness turned upon the pursuers. (Joshua 8:20)**
- **And Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had captured the city, and that the smoke of the city ascended, and so they turned**



- around and went striking the men of Ai down. (**Joshua 8:21**)
- **And these others came out of the city to meet them, so that they got to be in between Israel, these on this side and those on that, and they went striking them down until there did not remain of them either a survivor or an escapee. (**Joshua 8:22**)**
  - **And Joshua proceeded to come against them by surprise. All night long he had gone up from Gilgal. (**Joshua 10:9**)**
  - **And Joshua and all the people of war with him proceeded to come against them along the waters of Merom by surprise and to fall upon them. (**Joshua 11:7**)**
  - **Then he said to them; Follow me, because Yehowah has given your enemies, the Moabites, into your hand. And they went following him and got to capture the fords of the Jordan against the Moabites, and they did not allow anybody to pass over. (**Judges 3:28**)**
  - **At once Sisera called together all his war chariots, the nine hundred war chariots with iron scythes, and all the people that were with him, out of Harosheth of the nations to the torrent valley of Kishon. (**Judges 4:13**)**
  - **Deborah now said to Barak; Get up, for this is the day that Yehowah will certainly give Sisera into your hand. Is it not Yehowah that has gone out before you? And Barak went descending from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men behind him. (**Judges 4:14**)**
  - **Then he divided the three hundred men up into three bands and put horns in the hands of all of them and large empty jars, and torches inside the large jars. (**Judges 7:16**)**
  - **Hence he took the people and divided them up into three bands and began to lie in wait in the field. Then he looked, and there the people were going out of the city. He now rose up against them and struck them down. (**Judges 9:43**)**
  - **And Gilead got to capture the fords of the Jordan ahead of Ephraim, and it occurred that when the escaping men of Ephraim would say; Let me pass over, then the men of Gilead would say to each one; Are you an Ephraimite? When he would say; No!**

**(Judges 12:5)**

**· Under The Monarchy**

- **Not satisfied with the theocratic arrangement under the Judges, the people wanted to be like all the nations, having a king to go out before them and fight their battles.**
- **And we must become, we also, like all the nations, and our king must judge us and go out before us and fight our battles. (1 Samuel 8:20)**
- **Samuel, however, warned them that such a king would not fight single-handed, he would take their sons and put them as his in his chariots and among his horsemen, and some will have to run before his chariots.**
- **And he proceeded to say; This will become the rightful due of the king that will reign over you. Your sons he will take and put them as his in his chariots and among his horsemen, and some will have to run before his chariots. (1 Samuel 8:11)**
- **And to appoint for himself chiefs over thousands and chiefs over fifties, and some to do his plowing and to reap his harvest and to make his war instruments and his chariot instruments. (1 Samuel 8:12)**
- **The king was commander in chief, with the chief of the **army** second in authority.**
- **And the name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam the daughter of Ahimaaz, and the name of the chief of his **army** was Abner the son of Ner, the uncle of Saul. (1 Samuel 14:50)**

**See Also RUNNERS**

- **The size and strength of Saul's **army** varied according to the demands. On one occasion he selected 3,000 men, 1,000 of whom were under the command of his son Jonathan.**
- **And Saul proceeded to choose for himself three thousand men out of Israel, and two thousand came to be with Saul at Michmash and in the mountainous region of Bethel, and a thousand proved to be with Jonathan at Gibeah of Benjamin, and**

- the rest of the people he sent away, each one to his tent. (**1 Samuel 13:2**)
- **For another exploit 330,000 men were assembled.**
  - **Then he took the sum of them in Bezek, and the sons of Israel amounted to three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand. (**1 Samuel 11:8**)**
  - **But compared with the highly mechanized armies of the Philistines, who, according to the Masoretic text, were capable of mustering 30,000 chariots, 6,000 horsemen, and people like the grains of sand, for multitude, as they did at Michmash, Israel appeared ill equipped. It happened on the day of battle that not a sword or a spear was found in the hand of any of the people, except Saul and Jonathan.**
  - **And the Philistines, for their part, collected themselves together to fight against Israel, thirty thousand war chariots and six thousand horsemen and people like the grains of sand that are upon the seashore for multitude, and they went their way up and began camping in Michmash to the east of Beth-aven. (**1 Samuel 13:5**)**
  - **And it happened on the day of battle that not a sword or a spear was found in the hand of any of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan, but there could be found one belonging to Saul and to Jonathan his son. (**1 Samuel 13:22**)**
  - **During the reign of David the army of Israel was greatly improved, both in size and efficiency. There were well over 300,000 men equipped for war that came to Hebron and turned the kingship of Saul over to David.**
  - **And these were the numbers of the heads of those equipped for the army that came to David at Hebron to turn the kingship of Saul over to him according to Yehowah's order. (**1 Chronicles 12:23**)**
  - **The sons of Judah carrying the large shield and the lance were six thousand eight hundred, equipped for the army. (**1 Chronicles 12:24**)**
  - **Of the sons of Simeon the mighty men of valor of the army were seven thousand one hundred. (**1 Chronicles 12:25**)**

- **Of the sons of the Levites four thousand six hundred. (1 Chronicles 12:26)**
- **And Jehoiada was the leader of the sons of Aaron, and with him there were three thousand seven hundred. (1 Chronicles 12:27)**
- **Also Zadok a young man, mighty in valor, and the house of his forefathers, twenty-two chiefs. (1 Chronicles 12:28)**
- **And of the sons of Benjamin, the brothers of Saul, there were three thousand, and up till then the greater number of them were keeping strict watch of the house of Saul. (1 Chronicles 12:29)**
- **And of the sons of Ephraim there were twenty thousand eight hundred, mighty men of valor, men of fame, by the house of their forefathers. (1 Chronicles 12:30)**
- **And of the half tribe of Manasseh there were eighteen thousand that had been designated by name to come to make David king. (1 Chronicles 12:31)**
- **And of the sons of Issachar having a knowledge of how to discern the times to know what Israel ought to do, there were two hundred head one's of theirs, and all their brothers were at their orders. (1 Chronicles 12:32)**
- **Of Zebulun those going out to the **army**, drawing up in battle formation with all the weapons of war, there were fifty thousand, and for flocking together to David they were not of a double heart. (1 Chronicles 12:33)**
- **And of Naphtali there were a thousand chiefs, and with them with the large shield and the spear there were thirty-seven thousand. (1 Chronicles 12:34)**
- **And of the Danites those drawing up in battle formation were twenty-eight thousand six hundred. (1 Chronicles 12:35)**
- **And of Asher those going out to the **army** for drawing up in battle formation were forty thousand. (1 Chronicles 12:36)**
- **And from across the Jordan of the Reubenites and the Gadites**

- and the half tribe of Manasseh with all the weapons of the military **army** there were a hundred and twenty thousand. (**1 Chronicles 12:37**)
- All these were men of war, flocking together in battle line, with a complete heart they came to Hebron to make David king over all Israel, and also all the remainder of Israel were of one heart for making David king. (**1 Chronicles 12:38**)
  - **Non-Israelites also served in David's army.**
  - And all his servants were crossing at his side, and all the Cherethites and all the Pelethites and all the Gittites, six hundred men that had followed him from Gath, were crossing before the king's face. (**2 Samuel 15:18**)
  - Accordingly the men of Joab and the Cherethites and the Pelethites and all the mighty men went out after him, and they went on out of Jerusalem to chase after Sheba the son of Bichri. (**2 Samuel 20:7**)
  - David retained many of the older organizational plans of the **army**, such as holding the position of commander in chief himself, appointing field commanders like Joab, Abner, and Amasa, and having under them the heads over thousands and over hundreds.
  - And David proceeded to number the people that were with him and to place over them chiefs of thousands and chiefs of hundreds. (**2 Samuel 18:1**)
  - And Yehowah will certainly bring back his blood upon his own head, because he fell upon two men more righteous and better than he was, and he proceeded to kill them with the sword, when my father David himself had not known of it, namely, Abner the son of Ner the chief of the **army** of Israel and Amasa the son of Jether the chief of the army of Judah. (**1 Kings 2:32**)
  - And David proceeded to consult with the chiefs of the thousands and of the hundreds and with every leader. (**1 Chronicles 13:1**)
  - And Joab the son of Zeruah was over the **army**, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder. (**1 Chronicles 18:15**)

- **However, David instituted some novel plans of his own. A system of monthly rotation provided 12 groups of 24,000, a total of 288,000, so that a soldier normally served only one month a year.**
- **As for the sons of Israel by their number, the heads of the paternal houses and the chiefs of the thousands and of the hundreds and their officers that were ministering to the king in every matter of the divisions of those that came in and that went out month by month for all the months of the year, each division was twenty-four thousand. (1 Chronicles 27:1)**
- **Over the first division of the first month there was Jashobeam the son of Zabdiel, and in his division there were twenty-four thousand. (1 Chronicles 27:2)**
- **Some of the sons of Perez the head of all the chiefs of the service groups were for the first month. (1 Chronicles 27:3)**
- **And over the division of the second month there was Dodai the Ahohite with his division, and Mikloth was the leader, and in his division there were twenty-four thousand. (1 Chronicles 27:4)**
- **The chief of the third service group for the third month was Benaiah the son of Jehoiada the chief priest, and in his division there were twenty-four thousand. (1 Chronicles 27:5)**
- **This Benaiah was a mighty man of the thirty and over the thirty, and over his division there was Ammizabad his son. (1 Chronicles 27:6)**
- **Fourth for the fourth month was Asahel, Joab's brother, and Zebadiah his son after him, and in his division there were twenty-four thousand. (1 Chronicles 27:7)**
- **The fifth chief for the fifth month was Shamhuth the Izrahite, and in his division there were twenty-four thousand. (1 Chronicles 27:8)**
- **The sixth for the sixth month was Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, and in his division there were twenty-four thousand. (1 Chronicles 27:9)**
- **The seventh for the seventh month was Helez the Pelonite of the sons of Ephraim, and in his division there were twenty-four**

thousand. (1 Chronicles 27:10)

- The eighth for the eighth month was Sibbecai the Hushathite of the Zerahites, and in his division there were twenty-four thousand. (1 Chronicles 27:11)
- The ninth for the ninth month was Abi-ezer the Anathothite of the Benjaminites, and in his division there were twenty-four thousand. (1 Chronicles 27:12)
- The tenth for the tenth month was Maharai the Netophathite of the Zerahites, and in his division there were twenty-four thousand. (1 Chronicles 27:13)
- The eleventh for the eleventh month was Benaiah the Pirathonite of the sons of Ephraim, and in his division there were twenty-four thousand. (1 Chronicles 27:14)
- The twelfth for the twelfth month was Heldai the Netophathite, of Othniel, and in his division there were twenty-four thousand. (1 Chronicles 27:15)
- This does not mean that all 24,000 for one month came from the same tribe, but, rather, each tribe furnished its share of the monthly quota throughout the year.

### •• Cavalry And Chariot Units

- Chariots, mobile firing platforms, were highly prized by the Babylonians, Assyrians, and Egyptians for their speed and maneuverability. They thus became fitting symbols of military power of the leading world empires. Under David, Israel's greatest military commander, the **army** in its entirety was composed of the foot soldier with his hand weapons sword, spear, bow, or sling. David must have remembered that Yehowah counseled against relying on the horse for victory.
- Only he should not increase horses for himself, nor make the people go back to Egypt in order to increase horses, whereas Yehowah has said to you, you must never go back again by this way. (Deuteronomy 17:16)
- In case you go out to the battle against your enemies and you actually see horses and war chariots, a people more numerous

than you, you must not be afraid of them, for Yehowah your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. **(Deuteronomy 20:1)**

- **That Pharaoh's horses and chariots were pitched into the sea by Yehowah.**
- **At that time Moses and the sons of Israel proceeded to sing this song to Yehowah and to say the following; Let me sing to Yehowah, for he has become highly exalted the horse and its rider he has pitched into the sea. (Exodus 15:1)**
- **Pharaoh's chariots and his military forces he has cast into the sea, and the choice of his warriors have been sunk in the Red Sea. (Exodus 15:4)**
- **And that Yehowah opened the floodgates of heaven on Sisera's nine hundred war chariots with iron scythes so that the torrent of Kishon washed the enemy away.**
- **And the sons of Israel began to cry out to Yehowah, because he had nine hundred war chariots with iron scythes, and he himself oppressed the sons of Israel with harshness twenty years. (Judges 4:3)**
- **The torrent of Kishon washed them away, the torrent of ancient days, the torrent of Kishon. You went treading down strength, O my soul. (Judges 5:21)**
- **Therefore, as Joshua hamstringed captured horses and burned enemy chariots, David did the same with horses seized from Hadadezer, king of Zobah. He hamstringed all except a hundred of the many horses captured from the king of Zobah.**
- **At this Yehowah said to Joshua; Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow about this time I am abandoning all of them slain to Israel. Their horses you will hamstring, and their chariots you will burn in the fire. (Joshua 11:6)**
- **And Joshua and all the people of war with him proceeded to come against them along the waters of Merom by surprise and to fall upon them. (Joshua 11:7)**
- **Then Yehowah gave them into Israel's hand, and they went**



- striking them and pursuing them as far as populous Sidon and Misrephoth-maim and the valley plain of Mizpeh to the east, and they kept striking them until they had not let a survivor of theirs remain. (**Joshua 11:8**)
- After that Joshua did to them just as Yehowah had said to him, their horses he hamstrung, and their chariots he burned in the fire. (**Joshua 11:9**)
  - And David got to capture from him one thousand seven hundred horsemen and twenty thousand men on foot, and David proceeded to hamstring all the chariot horses, but he let a hundred chariot horses of them remain. (**2 Samuel 8:4**)
  - In a song David explained how his enemies concerned themselves with chariots and horses, but, as for us, concerning the name of Yehowah our God we shall make mention. The horse is a deception for salvation.
  - Some concerning chariots and others concerning horses, but, as for us, concerning the name of Yehowah our God we shall make mention. (**Psalms 20:7**)
  - The horse is a deception for salvation, and by the abundance of its vital energy it does not afford escape. (**Psalms 33:17**)
  - As the proverb says:
  - The horse is something prepared for the day of battle, but salvation belongs to Yehowah. (**Proverbs 21:31**)
  - With the rule of Solomon a new chapter was written in the annals of Israel's **army**. His reign was comparatively peaceful, yet he multiplied horses and chariots. For the most part these horses were purchased and imported from Egypt. Whole cities had to be built throughout the territory to accommodate these new military divisions.
  - And Solomon came to have forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots and twelve thousand horsemen. (**1 Kings 4:26**)
  - And all the storage cities that became Solomon's and the chariot cities and the cities for the horsemen, and the desirable things of Solomon that he had desired to build in Jerusalem and in Lebanon and in all the land of his dominion. (**1 Kings 9:19**)

- **And Solomon kept gathering more chariots and steeds, and he came to have a thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand steeds, and he kept them stationed in the chariot cities and close by the king in Jerusalem. (1 Kings 10:26)**
- **And a chariot customarily came up and was exported from Egypt for six hundred silver pieces, and a horse for a hundred and fifty, and that was the way it was for all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria. It was by means of them that they did the exporting. (1 Kings 10:29)**
- **And Solomon kept gathering chariots and steeds so that he came to have a thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand steeds, and he kept them stationed in chariot cities and close by the king at Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 1:14)**
- **And the king came to make the silver and the gold in Jerusalem like the stones, and cedarwood he made like the sycamore trees that are in the Shephelah for great quantity. (2 Chronicles 1:15)**
- **And there was the export of the horses that Solomon had from Egypt, and the company of the kings merchants would themselves take the horse drove for a price. (2 Chronicles 1:16)**
- **And they customarily brought up and exported from Egypt a chariot for six hundred silver pieces and a horse for a hundred and fifty, and that was the way it was for all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria. It was by means of them that they did the exporting. (2 Chronicles 1:17)**
- **However, Yehowah never blessed this innovation of Solomon, and with his death and the dividing of the kingdom came the decline in Israel's **army**. As Isaiah later wrote,**
- **Woe to those going down to Egypt for assistance, those who rely on mere horses, and who put their trust in war chariots, because they are numerous, and in steeds, because they are very mighty, but who have not looked to the Holy One of Israel and have not searched for Yehowah himself. (Isaiah 31:1)**

**See Also CHARIOT**

**.. During The Divided Kingdom**

- **Following the division of the kingdom there was constant hostility between Judah and Israel.**
- **And the Israelites kept up their revolt against the house of David down to this day. (1 Kings 12:19)**
- **When Rehoboam arrived at Jerusalem, he immediately congregated all the house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin, a hundred and eighty thousand choice men able-bodied for war, to fight against the house of Israel, so as to bring the kingship back to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. (1 Kings 12:21)**
- **Rehoboam's successor Abijah had only 400,000 men in his army when Jeroboam came against him with 800,000. In spite of being outnumbered two to one, the southern kingdom proved successful because they leaned upon Yehowah. Israel lost 500,000 men.**
- **So Abijah engaged in the war with a military force of four hundred thousand mighty men of war, chosen men. And Jeroboam himself drew up in battle formation against him with eight hundred thousand chosen men, valiant, mighty men. (2 Chronicles 13:3)**
- **Abijah now rose up upon Mount Zemaraim, which is in the mountainous region of Ephraim, and said; Hear me, O Jeroboam and all Israel. (2 Chronicles 13:4)**
- **Is it not for you to know that Yehowah the God of Israel himself gave a kingdom to David over Israel to time indefinite, to him and to his sons, by a covenant of salt? (2 Chronicles 13:5)**
- **And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, proceeded to rise up and rebel against his lord. (2 Chronicles 13:6)**
- **And idle men, good-for-nothing fellows, kept collecting themselves together by him. Finally they proved superior to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, when Rehoboam himself happened to be young and fainthearted, and he did not hold his own against them. (2 Chronicles 13:7)**
- **And now you men are thinking of holding your own against the kingdom of Yehowah in the hand of the sons of David, when you**

- are a large crowd and there are with you the golden calves that Jeroboam made for you as gods. ([2 Chronicles 13:8](#))
- **Have you not driven out Yehowah's priests, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and do you not keep making priests for yourselves like the peoples of the lands? As for anyone that came and filled his hand with power by means of a young bull and seven rams, he became a priest of what are no gods. ([2 Chronicles 13:9](#))**
  - **As for us, Yehowah is our God, and we have not left him, but priests are ministering to Yehowah, the sons of Aaron, and also the Levites in the work. ([2 Chronicles 13:10](#))**
  - **And they are making burnt offerings smoke to Yehowah morning by morning and evening by evening and also perfumed incense, and the layers of bread are upon the table of pure gold, and there are the golden lampstand and its lamps to light up evening by evening, because we are keeping the obligation to Yehowah our God, but you yourselves have left him. ([2 Chronicles 13:11](#))**
  - **And, look! With us there is at the head the true God with his priests and the signal trumpets for sounding the battle alarm against you. O sons of Israel, do not fight against Yehowah the God of your forefathers, for you will not prove successful. ([2 Chronicles 13:12](#))**
  - **And Jeroboam, for his part, dispatched an ambush around to come behind them, so that they proved to be in front of Judah and the ambush behind them. ([2 Chronicles 13:13](#))**
  - **When those of Judah turned around, why, there they had the battle in front and behind. And they began to cry out to Yehowah, while the priests were loudly sounding the trumpets. ([2 Chronicles 13:14](#))**
  - **And the men of Judah broke out shouting a war cry. And it came about that, when the men of Judah shouted a war cry, then the true God himself defeated Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. ([2 Chronicles 13:15](#))**
  - **And the sons of Israel took to flight from before Judah, and then God gave them into their hand. ([2 Chronicles 13:16](#))**

- **And Abijah and his people went striking them down with a vast slaughter, and the slain of Israel kept falling down, five hundred thousand chosen men. (2 Chronicles 13:17)**
- **Thus the sons of Israel were humbled at that time, but the sons of Judah proved superior because they leaned upon Yehowah the God of their forefathers. (2 Chronicles 13:18)**
- **In addition to intertribal strife, there was the external antagonism from the pagan nations round about. Israel was obliged to maintain a standing **army** because of provocative foreign relations with Syria to the north.**
- **In time Jehoahaz softened the face of Yehowah, so that Yehowah listened to him, for he had seen the oppression upon Israel, because the king of Syria had oppressed them. (2 Kings 13:4)**
- **Consequently Yehowah gave Israel a savior, so that they came out from under the hand of Syria, and the sons of Israel continued to dwell in their homes as formerly. (2 Kings 13:5)**
- **Only they did not depart from the sin of the house of Jeroboam, with which he caused Israel to sin. In it he walked, and even the sacred pole itself stood in Samaria. (2 Kings 13:6)**
- **For he had not left to Jehoahaz any people but fifty horsemen and ten chariots and ten thousand men on foot, because the king of Syria had destroyed them, that he might make them like the dust at threshing. (2 Kings 13:7)**
- **Judah also had to resist the advances of pagan **armies**. On one occasion Egypt invaded Judah and took away much booty.**
- **And it came about in the fifth year of King Rehoboam that Shishak the king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. (1 Kings 14:25)**
- **And he got to take the treasures of the house of Yehowah and the treasures of the house of the king, and everything he took. And he went on to take all the gold shields that Solomon had made. (1 Kings 14:26)**
- **Consequently King Rehoboam made in place of them copper shields, and he committed them to the control of the chiefs of the**

runners, the guards of the entrance of the king's house. (**1 Kings 14:27**)

- **At another time Ethiopia came against Judah with an army of 1,000,000 men and 300 chariots. King Asa's forces were only 580,000, but when he began to call to Yehowah his God, Yehowah defeated the Ethiopians, and not a single one was left alive.**
- **And Asa came to have a military force bearing the large shield and lance, three hundred thousand out of Judah. And out of Benjamin those bearing the buckler and bending the bow were two hundred and eighty thousand. All these were valiant, mighty men. (**2 Chronicles 14:8**)**
- **Later Zerah the Ethiopian went out against them with a military force of a million men and three hundred chariots, and came as far as Mareshah. (**2 Chronicles 14:9**)**
- **Then Asa went out against him and they drew up in battle formation in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. (**2 Chronicles 14:10**)**
- **And Asa began to call to Yehowah his God and say; O Yehowah, as to helping, it does not matter with you whether there are many or those with no power. Help us, O Yehowah our God, for upon you we do lean, and in your name we have come against this crowd. O Yehowah, you are our God. Do not let mortal man retain strength against you. (**2 Chronicles 14:11**)**
- **At that Yehowah defeated the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians took to flight. (**2 Chronicles 14:12**)**
- **And Asa and the people that were with him kept pursuing them as far as Gerar, and those of the Ethiopians continued falling down till there was no one alive of them, for they were broken to pieces before Yehowah and before his camp. Afterward they carried off a very great deal of spoil. (**2 Chronicles 14:13**)**
- **Again, when Moab, Ammon, and the Ammonim came up against Jehoshaphat, although he had a force numbering 1,160,000 men, Jehoshaphat set his face to search for Yehowah, who assured him, The battle is not yours, but God's.**
- **And Jehoshaphat continued advancing and growing great to a**

- superior degree, and he went on building fortified places and storage cities in Judah. (**2 Chronicles 17:12**)
- **And there were many interests that became his in the cities of Judah, and warriors, valiant, mighty men, were in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 17:13)**
  - **And these were their offices by the house of their forefathers: Of Judah the chiefs of thousands, Adnah the chief, and with him there were three hundred thousand valiant, mighty men. (2 Chronicles 17:14)**
  - **And under his control there was Jehohanan the chief, and with him there were two hundred and eighty thousand. (2 Chronicles 17:15)**
  - **And under his control there was Amasiah the son of Zichri the volunteer for Yehowah, and with him there were two hundred thousand valiant, mighty men. (2 Chronicles 17:16)**
  - **And out of Benjamin there was the valiant, mighty man Eliada, and with him there were two hundred thousand men equipped with the bow and shield. (2 Chronicles 17:17)**
  - **And under his control there was Jehozabad, and with him there were a hundred and eighty thousand men outfitted for the army. (2 Chronicles 17:18)**
  - **These were the one's ministering to the king apart from those whom the king put in the fortified cities throughout all Judah. (2 Chronicles 17:19)**
  - **And it came about afterward that the sons of Moab and the sons of Ammon and with them some of the Ammonim came against Jehoshaphat in war. (2 Chronicles 20:1)**
  - **So people came and told Jehoshaphat, saying; There has come against you a large crowd from the region of the sea, from Edom, and there they are in Hazazon-tamar, that is to say, En-gedi. (2 Chronicles 20:2)**
  - **At that Jehoshaphat became afraid and set his face to search for Yehowah. So he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. (2 Chronicles 20:3)**

- **Consequently he said; Pay attention, all Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat! Here is what Yehowah has said to you; Do not you be afraid or be terrified because of this large crowd, for the battle is not yours, but God's. (2 Chronicles 20:15)**
- **Military history was made on that occasion, for a chorus of trained voices went out ahead of the armed men, singing; Give praise to Yehowah. In confusion the enemy forces destroyed each other.**
- **Further, he took counsel with the people and stationed singers to Yehowah and those offering praise in holy adornment as they went out ahead of the armed men, and saying; Give praise to Yehowah, for to time indefinite is his loving-kindness. (2 Chronicles 20:21)**
- **And at the time that they started off with the joyful cry and praise, Yehowah set men in ambush against the sons of Ammon, Moab and the mountainous region of Seir who were coming into Judah, and they went smiting one another. (2 Chronicles 20:22)**
- **And the sons of Ammon and Moab proceeded to stand up against the inhabitants of the mountainous region of Seir to devote them to destruction and annihilate them, and as soon as they finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped each one to bring his own fellow to ruin. (2 Chronicles 20:23)**

## •• Roman

- **The Roman **army**, estimated to number 300,000 during Augustus reign, was organized quite differently from those of former empires. The principal part of the Roman **military establishment** was the legion. It was a large independent unit, a complete **army** in itself, rather than a specialized portion of a greater force.**
- **Sometimes legions fought together, merging their resources and strength under a central command, as when four legions combined under Titus for the siege of Jerusalem, 70 C.E. But usually the legion stood alone with its individual commission of duty.**
- **Supplementing the legionnaires were noncitizens from all parts of the empire who made up the *auxilia*, often volunteers from the local district. Auxiliaries, backed up by the legions, were stationed along the**



borders. Upon honorable discharge one in the *auxilia* was granted Roman citizenship.

- The number of legions varied at different times, from 25 or less to as many as 33. Likewise the number of soldiers comprising the legion fluctuated from about 4,000 to 6,000, in the **First Century** the force usually numbered 6,000. For this reason **legion** as used in the Scriptures apparently means an indefinite, large number.
- 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**)
- But he began to ask him; What is your name? And he said to him; My name is **Legion**, because there are many of us. (**Mark 5:9**)
- Jesus asked him, What is your name? He said; **Legion**, because many demons had entered into him. (**Luke 8:30**)
- Each **legion** had its own commander, responsible solely to the emperor, and under him were six tribunes, called chiliarchs, military commanders. **NW**.
- But a convenient day came along when Herod spread an evening meal on his birthday for his top-ranking men and the **military commanders** and the foremost one's of Galilee. (**Mark 6:21**)
- Then the soldier band and the **military commander** and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus and bound him. (**John 18:12**)
- Then the soldier band and the **military commander** and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus and bound him. (**John 18:12**)
- Therefore, on the next day, Agrippa and Bernice came with much pompous show and entered into the audience chamber together with **military commanders** as well as men of eminence in the city, and when Festus gave the command, Paul was brought in. (**Acts of Apostles 25:23**)

### **See Also MILITARY COMMANDER**

- The legion was divided into ten cohorts, or bands. Thus the Scriptures speak of **the Italian band** and **the band of Augustus**.

- Now in Caesarea there was a certain man named Cornelius, an **army** officer of **the Italian band**, as it was called. (**Acts of Apostles 10:1**)
- Now as it was decided for us to sail away to Italy, they proceeded to hand both Paul and certain other prisoners over to an **army** officer named Julius of the **band of Augustus**. (**Acts of Apostles 27:1**)
- When Herod Agrippa died, **44 C.E.**, there were five cohorts in Caesarea. Further subdivided, the legion had **60 centuries**, usually **100 men** each, under the leadership of a centurion, **army** officer. These officers were especially valuable, having the responsibility of training soldiers. In each legion there were ten officers of special rank who acted as body guardsmen, couriers, and sometimes as executioners.
- So the king immediately dispatched a body guardsman and commanded him to bring his head. And he went off and beheaded him in the prison (**Mark 6:27**)
- When he entered into Capernaum, an **army** officer came to him, entreating him (**Matthew 8:5**)
- And saying; Sir, my manservant is laid up in the house with paralysis, being terribly tormented. (**Matthew 8:6**)
- He said to him; When I get there I will cure him. (**Matthew 8:7**)
- In reply the **army** officer said; Sir, I am not a fit man for you to enter under my roof, but just say the word and my manservant will be healed. (**Matthew 8:8**)
- For I too am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me, and I say to this one; Be on your way! And he is on his way. And to another; Come! And he comes. And to my slave; Do this! And he does it. (**Matthew 8:9**)
- Hearing that, Jesus became amazed and said to those following him; I tell you the truth, with no one in Israel have I found so great a faith. (**Matthew 8:10**)
- But I tell you that many from eastern parts and western parts will come and recline at the table with Abraham and Isaac and

Jacob in the kingdom of the heavens. (**Matthew 8:11**)

- Whereas the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the darkness outside. There is where their weeping and the gnashing of their teeth will be. (**Matthew 8:12**)
- Then Jesus said to the **army** officer; Go. Just as it has been your faith, so let it come to pass for you. And the manservant was healed in that hour. (**Matthew 8:13**)
- But the **army** officer and those with him watching over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things happening, grew very much afraid, saying; Certainly this was God's Son. (**Matthew 27:54**)
- Now in Caesarea there was a certain man named Cornelius, an **army** officer of the Italian band, as it was called. (**Acts of Apostles 10:1**)
- And he at once took soldiers and **army** officers and ran down to them. When they caught sight of the military commander and the soldiers, they quit beating Paul. (**Acts of Apostles 21:32**)
- But when they had stretched him out for the whipping, Paul said to the **army** officer standing there; Is it lawful for you men to scourge a man that is a Roman and uncondemned? (**Acts of Apostles 22:25**)
- Well, when the **army** officer heard this, he went to the military commander and made report, saying; What are you intending to do? Why, this man is a Roman. (**Acts of Apostles 22:26**)
- So Paul called one of the **army** officers to him and said; Lead this young man off to the military commander, for he has something to report to him. (**Acts of Apostles 23:17**)
- And he summoned a certain two of the **army** officers and said, Get two hundred soldiers ready to march clear to Caesarea, also seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen, at the third hour of the night. (**Acts of Apostles 23:23**)
- And he ordered the **army** officer that the man be kept and have some relaxation of custody, and that he forbid no one of his people to wait upon him. (**Acts of Apostles 24:23**)

- Now as it was decided for us to sail away to Italy, they proceeded to hand both Paul and certain other prisoners over to an **army** officer named Julius of the band of Augustus. (**Acts of Apostles 27:1**)
- But there the **army** officer found a boat from Alexandria that was sailing for Italy, and he made us board it. (**Acts of Apostles 27:6**)
- However, the **army** officer went heeding the pilot and the shipowner rather than the things said by Paul. (**Acts of Apostles 27:11**)
- Paul said to the **army** officer and the soldiers; Unless these men remain in the boat, you cannot be saved. (**Acts of Apostles 27:31**)
- But the **army** officer desired to bring Paul safely through and restrained them from their purpose. And he commanded those able to swim to cast themselves into the sea and make it to land first. (**Acts of Apostles 27:43**)

**See Also AUGUSTUS, BAND OF**  
**See Also ARMY OFFICER**

- The Roman legions had their various standards and ensigns bearing images of eagles or some animals, later small statues of the emperor were added. These banners had religious significance, were considered sacred and holy to the point of being worshiped, and were guarded at the cost of human life. It was for such reasons that the Jews violently opposed their presence in Jerusalem.

### •• Those Known As Early Christians

- Early Christians refused to serve in the Roman **army**, in both the legions and *auxilia*, considering such service as wholly incompatible with the teachings of Christianity. Says Justin Martyr, of the **Second Century C.E.**, in his **[Dialogue With Trypho, a Jew [CX]: We who were filled with war, and mutual slaughter, and every wickedness, have each through the whole earth changed our warlike weapons, our swords into ploughshares, and our spears into implements of tillage. [The Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. I, p. 254]**
- In his treatise **The Chaplet, or Deuteronomy Corona (XI)**, when discussing **whether warfare is proper at all for Christians**, Tertullian

**circa 200 C.E.** argued from Scripture the unlawfulness even of a military life itself, concluding, **I banish from us the military life.** [The Ante-Nicene Fathers, 1957, Vol. III, pp. 99,100]

2· A careful review of all the information available goes to show that, until the time of Marcus Aurelius, **121-180 C.E.**, no Christian became a soldier, and no soldier, after becoming a Christian, remained in military service. [The Rise of Christianity, by E. W. Barnes, 1947, p. 333]

- It will be seen presently that the evidence for the existence of a single Christian soldier between **60** and about **165 A.D.** is exceedingly slight, up to the reign of Marcus Aurelius at least, no Christian would become a soldier after his baptism. [The Early Church and the World, by C. J. Cadoux, 1955, pp. 275,276]

- In the second century, Christianity had affirmed the incompatibility of military service with Christianity. [A Short History of Rome, by G. Ferrero and C. Barbagallo, 1919, p. 382]

- The behavior of the Christians was very different from that of the Romans. Since Christ had preached peace, they refused to become soldiers. [Our World Through the Ages, by N. Platt and M. J. Drummond, 1961, p. 125]

- The first Christians thought it was wrong to fight, and would not serve in the army even when the Empire needed soldiers. [The New Worlds Foundations in the Old, by R. and W. M. West, 1929, p. 131]

- The Christians shrank from public office and military service. [Persecution of the Christians in Gaul, A.D. 177, by F. P. G. Guizot in The Great Events by Famous Historians, edited by R. Johnson, 1905, Vol. III, p. 246]

- While they, **the Christians**, inculcated the maxims of passive obedience, they refused to take any active part in the civil administration or the military defense of the empire. It was impossible that the Christians, without renouncing a more sacred duty, could assume the character of soldiers, of magistrates, or of princes. [The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, by Edward Gibbon, Vol. I, p. 416]

## ·· Heavenly

- Heavenly **armies**, in the sense of well-organized multitudes, refer not only to the physical stars, but more frequently to the mighty hosts of angelic spirit creatures under the supreme command of Yehowah God.

- Thus the heavens and the earth and all their **army** came to their completion. (**Genesis 2:1**)
- You are Yehowah alone; You yourself have made the heavens, even the heaven of the heavens, and all their **army**, the earth and all that is upon it, the seas and all that is in them, and you are preserving all of them alive, and the **army** of the heavens are bowing down to you. (**Nehemiah 9:6**)
- The expression **Yehowah of armies** occurs 283 times in the Hebrew Scriptures, first at;
  - And that man went up out of his city from year to year to prostrate himself and to sacrifice to **Yehowah of armies** in Shiloh. And there is where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests to Yehowah. (**1 Samuel 1:3**)
  - And twice its equivalent is found in the Greek Scriptures.
  - 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**)
  - In discussing the angelic warriors, such military terms are used as legions, war chariots, horsemen, and so forth.
    - And it came about that as they were walking along, speaking as they walked, why, look! A **fiery war chariot and fiery horses**, and they proceeded to make a separation between them both, and Elijah went ascending in the windstorm to the heavens. (**2 Kings 2:11**)
    - All the while Elisha was seeing it, and he was crying out; My father, my father, **the war chariot of Israel and his horsemen!** And he did not see him anymore. Consequently he took hold of his own garments and ripped them into two pieces. (**2 Kings 2:12**)

- 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**)
- 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 size, the camp of Yehowah's **invisible armies** includes tens of thousands, thousands over and over again, of **war chariots**.
- The **war chariots** of God are in tens of thousands, thousands over and over again. Yehowah himself has come from Sinai into the holy place. (**Psalms 68:17**)

### See Also YEHOWAH OF ARMIES

#### •• As A Fighting Force They Are Invincible

- The prince of the **army** of Yehowah with drawn sword appeared to Joshua and gave instructions on how Jericho would be captured.
- 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**)
- One angel of these **heavenly armies** slew 185,000 Assyrians in a single night.
- And it came about on that night that the angel of Yehowah proceeded to go out and strike down a hundred and eighty-five

thousand in the camp of the Assyrians. When people rose up early in the morning, why, there all of them were dead carcasses. **(2 Kings 19:35)**

- **When war broke out in heaven Michael and his angels hurled Satan and his demons down to the vicinity of the earth.**
- **And war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels battled with the dragon, and the dragon and its angels battled **(Revelation 12:7)****
- **But it did not prevail, neither was a place found for them any longer in heaven. **(Revelation 12:8)****
- **So down the great dragon was hurled, the original serpent, the one called Devil and Satan, who is misleading the entire inhabited earth, he was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him. **(Revelation 12:9)****
- **On this account be glad, you heavens and you who reside in them! Woe for the earth and for the sea, because the Devil has come down to you, having great anger, knowing he has a short period of time. **(Revelation 12:12)****
- **Furthermore, there will be no escape when the **armies** in heaven follow the King of kings and Lord of lords as he brings destruction upon the wild beast and the kings of the earth and their armies.**
- **Also, the **armies** that were in heaven were following him on white horses, and they were clothed in white, clean, fine linen. **(Revelation 19:14)****
- **And upon his outer garment, even upon his thigh, he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. **(Revelation 19:16)****
- **And I saw the wild beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage the war with the one seated on the horse and with his **army**. **(Revelation 19:19)****
- **But the rest were killed off with the long sword of the one seated on the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth. And all the birds were filled from the fleshy parts of them. **(Revelation 19:21)****



- **At the same time, however, this mighty invisible **army** of Yehowah gives protection to his faithful servants on earth.**
- **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 angel of Yehowah is **camping all around those fearing** him, and he rescues them. (**Psalms 34:7**)**
- **For he will give his own **angels a command concerning you**, to guard you in all your ways. (**Psalms 91:11**)**
- **My own God sent his angel and shut the mouth of the lions, and they have not brought me to ruin, forasmuch as before him innocence itself was found in me, and also before you, O king, no hurtful act have I done. (**Daniel 6:22**)**
- **See to it that you men do not despise one of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven. (**Matthew 18:10**)**
- **But, look! Yehowah's angel stood by, and a light shone in the prison cell. Striking Peter on the side, he roused him, saying, Rise quickly! And his chains fell off his hands. (**Acts of Apostles 12:7**)**
- **The angel said to him; Gird yourself and bind your sandals on. He did so. Finally he said to him; Put your outer garment on and keep following me. (**Acts of Apostles 12:8**)**
- **And he went out and kept following him, but he did not know that what was happening through the angel was real. In fact, he supposed he was seeing a vision. (**Acts of Apostles 12:9**)**
- **Going through the first sentinel guard and the second they got to the iron gate leading into the city, and this opened to them of its own accord. And after they went out they advanced down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. (**Acts of Apostles 12:10**)**
- **But with reference to which one of the angels has he ever said,**

**Sit at my right hand, until I place your enemies as a stool for your feet? ([Hebrews 1:13](#))**

- **Are they not all spirits for public service, sent forth to minister for those who are going to inherit salvation? ([Hebrews 1:14](#))**

**See Also ARMS**

**See Also ARMOR**

**See Also SOLDIER**

**See Also WAR**