

~WAR (2467)

[Hebrew, *qa-rav'*, Greek, *po'le-mos*]

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• A state of hostility accompanied by actions designed to subjugate or to destroy those viewed as the enemy. A number of Hebrew words involve waging war, one of these, from the verb root *qa-rav'*, means basically, come near, that is, to fight.

• The Greek noun *po'le-mos* means, war, and the Greek verb *stratēu'o* is from a root that refers to an encamped army.

• The Bible says that Nimrod, went forth into Assyria, which was evidently an act of aggression, into the territory of Asshur the son of Shem. There Nimrod built cities.

• Out of that land he went forth into Assyria and set himself to building Nineveh and RehobothIr and Calah. (Genesis 10:11)

• In Abraham's day Chedorlaomer, king of Elam, subjected a number of cities, all apparently around the southern end of the Dead Sea, for a period of 12 years, forcing them to serve him.

- After they rebelled, Chedorlaomer and his allies **warred** against them, vanquishing the forces of Sodom and Gomorrah, taking their possessions, and capturing Abraham's nephew Lot and his household.
- At that Abraham mustered 318 trained servants and, together with his three confederates, pursued Chedorlaomer and recovered the captives and the plunder. However, Abraham did not take any of the booty for himself.
- This is the first record of a **war** waged by a servant of God. Abraham's **warring** to recover his fellow servant of Yehowah had Yehowah's approval, for, on Abraham's return, he was blessed by Melchizedek, priest of the Most High God.
- Now it came about in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim. (**Genesis 14:1**)
- That these made **war** with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, that is to say, Zoar. (**Genesis 14:2**)
- All these marched as allies to the Low Plain of Siddim, that is, the Salt Sea. (**Genesis 14:3**)
- Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but the thirteenth year they rebelled. (**Genesis 14:4**)
- And in the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer came, and also the kings who were with him, and they inflicted defeats on the Rephaim in Ashterothkarnaim, and the Zuzim in Ham, and the Emim in Shavehkiriathaim. (**Genesis 14:5**)
- And the Horites in their mountain of Seir, down to Elparan, which is at the wilderness. (**Genesis 14:6**)
- Then they turned about and came to Enmishpat, that is, Kadesh, and defeated the whole field of the Amalekites and also the Amorites who were dwelling in Hazazontamar. (**Genesis 14:7**)
- At this point the king of Sodom went on the march, and also the king of Gomorrah and the king of Admah and the king of Zeboiim and the king of Bela, that is to say, Zoar, and they drew up in battle order against them in the Low Plain of Siddim. (**Genesis**

14:8)

- **Against Chedorlaomer king of Elam and Tidal king of Goiim and Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar, four kings against the five. (Genesis 14:9)**
- **Now the Low Plain of Siddim was pits upon pits of bitumen, and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah took to flight and went falling into them, and those who remained fled to the mountainous region. (Genesis 14:10)**
- **Then the victors took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food and went on their way. (Genesis 14:11)**
- **They also took Lot the son of Abram's brother and his goods and continued on their way. He was then dwelling in Sodom. (Genesis 14:12)**
- **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)**
- **Then the king of Sodom went out to meet him after he returned from defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him, to the Low Plain of Shaveh, that is, the kings Low Plain. (Genesis 14:17)**
- **And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine, and he was priest of the Most High God. (Genesis 14:18)**

- Then he blessed him and said; Blessed be Abram of the Most High God, producer of heaven and earth. (**Genesis 14:19**)
- And blessed be the Most High God, who has delivered your oppressors into your hand! At that Abram gave him a tenth of everything. (**Genesis 14:20**)
- After that the king of Sodom said to Abram; Give me the souls, but take the goods for yourself. (**Genesis 14:21**)
- At this Abram said to the king of Sodom; I do lift up my hand in an oath to Yehowah the Most High God, Producer of heaven and earth. (**Genesis 14:22**)
- That, from a thread to a sandal lace, no, I shall take nothing from anything that is yours, in order, that you may not say; It was I who made Abram rich. (**Genesis 14:23**)
- Nothing for me! Only what the young men have already eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol and Mamre, let them take their share. (**Genesis 14:24**)

.. God-Ordained Warfare

- Yehowah is a manly person of **war**, the God of armies, and mighty in battle.
- Yehowah is a manly person of **war**. Yehowah is his name. (**Exodus 15:3**)
- Thus David went on getting greater and greater, and Yehowah the God of armies was with him. (**2 Samuel 5:10**)
- Who, then, is this glorious King? Yehowah strong and mighty, Yehowah mighty in battle. (**Psalms 24:8**)
- Who, then, is he, this glorious King? Yehowah of armies, he is the glorious King. (**Psalms 24:10**)
- Like a mighty man Yehowah himself will go forth. Like a **warrior** he will awaken zeal. He will shout, yes, he will let out a war cry, over his enemies he will show himself mightier. (**Isaiah 42:13**)

- **Not only has he the right as Creator and Supreme Sovereign of the universe but he is also obligated by justice to execute or authorize execution of the lawless, to **war** against all obstinate ones who refuse to obey his righteous laws.**
- **Yehowah was therefore just in wiping out the wicked at the time of the Flood, in destroying Sodom and Gomorrah, and in bringing destruction upon Pharaoh's forces.**
- **Consequently Yehowah saw that the badness of man was abundant in the earth and every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only bad all the time. ([Genesis 6:5](#))**
- **And Yehowah felt regrets that he had made men in the earth, and he felt hurt at his heart. ([Genesis 6:6](#))**
- **So Yehowah said; I am going to wipe men whom I have created off the surface of the ground, from man to domestic animal, to moving animal and to flying creature of the heavens, because I do regret that I have made them. ([Genesis 6:7](#))**
- **After that God said to Noah; The end of all flesh has come before me, because the earth is full of violence as a result of them, and here I am bringing them to ruin together with the earth. ([Genesis 6:13](#))**
- **And as for me, here I am bringing the deluge of waters upon the earth to bring to ruin all flesh in which the force of life is active from under the heavens. Everything that is in the earth will expire. ([Genesis 6:17](#))**
- **Then Yehowah made it rain sulphur and fire from Yehowah, from the heavens, upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah. ([Genesis 19:24](#))**
- **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](#))**
- **The surging waters proceeded to cover them, down they went into the depths like a stone. ([Exodus 15:5](#))**
- **And he did not hold back from punishing an ancient world, but kept Noah, a preacher of righteousness, safe with seven others when he brought a deluge upon a world of ungodly people. (2**

Peter 2:5)

- **And by reducing the cities Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them, setting a pattern for ungodly persons of things to come. (2 Peter 2:6)**
- **And he delivered righteous Lot, who was greatly distressed by the indulgence of the law-defying people in loose conduct. (2 Peter 2:7)**
- **For that righteous man by what he saw and heard while dwelling among them from day to day was tormenting his righteous soul by reason of their lawless deeds. (2 Peter 2:8)**
- **Yehowah knows how to deliver people of godly devotion out of trial, but to reserve unrighteous people for the day of judgment to be cut off. (2 Peter 2:9)**
- **Especially, however, those who go on after flesh with the desire to defile it and who look down on lordship. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble at glorious ones but speak abusively. (2 Peter 2:10)**
- **So too Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities about them, after they in the same manner as the foregoing ones had committed fornication excessively and gone out after flesh for unnatural use, are placed before us as a **w**arning example by undergoing the judicial punishment of everlasting fire. (Jude 1:7)**

.. Israel Used As God's Executioner

- **Yehowah assigned the Israelites the sacred duty of serving as his executioners in the Promised Land to which he brought them. Prior to Israel's deliverance from Egypt, the nation had not known **w**arfare.**
- **And it came about at the time of Pharaoh's sending the people away that God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Philistines just because it was near, for God said; It might be the people will feel regret when they see **w**ar and will certainly return to Egypt. (Exodus 13:17)**
- **By victoriously directing Israel against seven nations more populous and mighty than they were, God magnified his name as Yehowah of armies, the God of the battle lines of Israel. This proved**

that neither with sword nor with spear does Yehowah save, because to Yehowah belongs the battle.

- **When Yehowah your God at last brings you into the land to which you are going so as to take possession of it, he must also clear away populous nations from before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations more populous and mighty than you are. (Deuteronomy 7:1)**
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- **And all this congregation will know that neither with sword nor with spear does Yehowah save, because to Yehowah belongs the battle, and he must give you men into our hand. (1 Samuel 17:47)**
- **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)**
- **It also gave the Israelites the opportunity to demonstrate obedience to God's commandments to the point of endangering their lives in God-ordained warfare.**
- **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)**
- **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](#))

•• No Aggression Beyond The God-Given Limits

- However, God strictly commanded Israel that they were not to engage in **wars** of aggression or conquest beyond the territory that he granted to them and that they were not to fight any nations except the ones he ordered them to fight. They were not to engage in **strife** with the nations of Edom, Moab, or Ammon.

- And command the people, saying; You are passing along by the border of your brothers, the sons of Esau, who are dwelling in Seir, and they will be afraid because of you, and you must be very careful. ([Deuteronomy 2:4](#))
- Do not engage in strife with them, because I shall not give you of their land so much as the width of the sole of the foot, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a holding. ([Deuteronomy 2:5](#))
- Yehowah then said to me, Do not molest Moab or engage in **war** with them, because I shall not give you any of his land as a holding, for to the sons of Lot I have given Ar as a holding. ([Deuteronomy 2:9](#))
- And you must get close in front of the sons of Ammon. Do not molest them or engage in strife with them, because I shall not give you any of the land of the sons of Ammon as a holding, for it is to the sons of Lot that I have given it as a holding. ([Deuteronomy 2:19](#))
- But they were attacked by these nations in later times and were forced to defend themselves against them in **warfare**. In this they had God's help.
- And once again the sons of Israel went doing what was bad in Yehowah's eyes. At that Yehowah let Eglon the king of Moab grow strong against Israel, because they did what was bad in Yehowah's eyes. ([Judges 3:12](#))
- Furthermore, he gathered against them the sons of Ammon and

- Amalek. Then they went and struck Israel and took possession of the city of palm trees. (**Judges 3:13**)
- And the sons of Israel continued to serve Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years. (**Judges 3:14**)
 - And the sons of Israel began to call to Yehowah for aid. So Yehowah raised up for them a savior, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a left-handed man. In time the sons of Israel sent tribute by his hand to Eglon the king of Moab. (**Judges 3:15**)
 - Meanwhile Ehud made a sword for himself, and it had two edges, its length being a cubit. Then he girded it underneath his garment upon his right thigh. (**Judges 3:16**)
 - And he proceeded to present the tribute to Eglon the king of Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man. (**Judges 3:17**)
 - And it came about that when he had finished presenting the tribute, he at once sent the people away, the bearers of the tribute. (**Judges 3:18**)
 - And he himself turned back at the quarries that were at Gilgal, and he proceeded to say; I have a secret word for you, O king. So he said; Keep silence! With that all those who were standing by him went on out from him. (**Judges 3:19**)
 - And Ehud came to him as he was sitting in his cool roof chamber that he had to himself. And Ehud went on to say; A word of God I have for you. At that he rose up from his throne. (**Judges 3:20**)
 - Then Ehud thrust in his left hand and took the sword off his right thigh and plunged it into his belly. (**Judges 3:21**)
 - And the handle kept going in also after the blade so that the fat closed in over the blade, for he did not draw the sword out of his belly, and the fecal matter began to come out. (**Judges 3:22**)
 - And Ehud proceeded to go out through the air hole, but he closed the doors of the roof chamber behind him and locked them. (**Judges 3:23**)
 - And he himself went out. And his servants came and began looking, and there the doors of the roof chamber were locked. So

- they said; He is just easing nature in the cool interior room.
(Judges 3:24)
- And they kept waiting until they were ashamed, and, look! There was no one opening the doors of the roof chamber. At this they took the key and opened them, and, look! Their lord was fallen to the earth dead! (Judges 3:25)
 - As for Ehud, he escaped while they were lingering, and he himself passed by the quarries and made his escape to Seirah. (Judges 3:26)
 - 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)
 - 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)
 - And at that time they went striking down Moab, about ten thousand men, every one robust and every one a valiant man, and not a single one escaped. (Judges 3:29)
 - And Moab came to be subdued on that day under Israel's hand, and the land had no further disturbance for eighty years. (Judges 3:30)
 - So Jephthah passed along to the sons of Ammon to fight against them, and Yehowah proceeded to give them into his hand. (Judges 11:32)
 - And he went striking them from Aroer all the way to Minnith, twenty cities, and as far as Abel-keramim with a very great slaughter. Thus the sons of Ammon were subdued before the sons of Israel. (Judges 11:33)
 - When, during the period of the Judges, the king of Ammon tried to justify his aggressions against Israel by falsely charging Israel with taking Ammonite land, Jephthah refuted him by recalling the historical facts.

· **Jephthah then proceeded to fight against these aggressors, on the principle that every one whom Yehowah dispossesses before us we will dispossess. Jephthah would not relinquish an inch of Israel's God-given land to any intruder.**

· **Then Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the sons of Ammon, saying; What do I have to do with you, seeing that you have come against me to fight in my land? (Judges 11:12)**

· **So the king of the sons of Ammon said to the messengers of Jephthah; It is because Israel took my land when they came up out of Egypt, from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok and as far as the Jordan. And now do return it peacefully. (Judges 11:13)**

· **But Jephthah sent once more messengers to the king of the sons of Ammon. (Judges 11:14)**

· **And said to him; This is what Jephthah has said; Israel did not take the land of Moab and the land of the sons of Ammon. (Judges 11:15)**

· **For when they came up out of Egypt Israel went walking through the wilderness as far as the Red Sea and got to come to Kadesh. (Judges 11:16)**

· **Then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying; Let me pass, please, through your land, and the king of Edom did not listen. And also to the king of Moab they sent, and he did not consent. And Israel kept dwelling in Kadesh. (Judges 11:17)**

· **When they walked on through the wilderness, they went their way around the land of Edom and the land of Moab, so that they went to**ward** the rising of the sun as respects the land of Moab and took up camping in the region of the Arnon, and they did not come within the boundary of Moab, because Arnon was the boundary of Moab. (Judges 11:18)**

· **After that Israel sent messengers to Sihon the king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon, and Israel said to him; Let us pass, please, through your land to my own place. (Judges 11:19)**

· **And Sihon did not feel sure about Israel's crossing through his territory, and Sihon went gathering all his people together and**

camping in Jahaz and fighting against Israel. (**Judges 11:20**)

- At this Yehowah the God of Israel gave Sihon and all his people into Israel's hand, so that they struck them and Israel took possession of all the land of the Amorites inhabiting that land. (**Judges 11:21**)
- Thus they took possession of all the territory of the Amorites from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok and from the wilderness as far as the Jordan. (**Judges 11:22**)
- And now Yehowah the God of Israel it was that dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel, and you, for your part, would dispossess them. (**Judges 11:23**)
- Is it not whomever Chemosh your god causes you to dispossess that you will dispossess? And every one whom Yehowah our God has dispossessed from before us is the one we shall dispossess. (**Judges 11:24**)
- And now are you any better than Balak the son of Zippor, the king of Moab? Did he ever contend with Israel, or did he ever fight against them? (**Judges 11:25**)
- While Israel was dwelling in Heshbon and its dependent towns and in Aroer and its dependent towns and in all the cities that are by the banks of Arnon for three hundred years, why, then, did you never snatch them away during that time? (**Judges 11:26**)
- As for me, I have not sinned against you, but you are dealing wrong with me by fighting against me. Let Yehowah the Judge, judge today between the sons of Israel and the sons of Ammon. (**Judges 11:27**)

See Also JEPHTHAH

· Sanctified Warfare

- Anciently, the fighting forces, before they entered battle, were customarily sanctified.
- Joshua now said to the people; Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow Yehowah will do wonderful things in your midst. (**Joshua 3:5**)

- **Against her they have sanctified war; Rise up, and let us go up at midday! Woe to us, for the day has declined, for the shadows of evening keep extending themselves! (Jeremiah 6:4)**
- **Lift up a signal in the land, O men. Blow a horn among the nations. Sanctify against her the nations. Summon against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni and Ashkenaz. Commission against her a recruiting officer. Make the horses come up like bristly locusts. (Jeremiah 51:27)**
- **Sanctify against her the nations, the kings of Media, its governor's and all its deputy rulers and all the land of each ones dominion. (Jeremiah 51:28)**
- **During warfare Israel's forces, including non-Jews, for example, Uriah the Hittite, who was probably a circumcised proselyte, had to remain ceremonially clean. They could not have sexual relations, even with their own wives, during a military campaign. Accordingly, there were no prostitutes who followed Israel's army. Moreover, the camp itself had to be kept clean from defilement.**
- **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)**
- **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)**
- **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)**
- **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)**
- **Further, David called him that he might eat before him and drink. So he got him drunk. Nevertheless, he went out in the evening to lie down on his bed with the servants of his lord, and to his own house he did not go down. (2 Samuel 11:13)**
- **When it was necessary to punish unfaithful Israel, those foreign armies bringing the destruction were viewed as sanctified, in the sense that they were set apart by Yehowah for the execution of his righteous judgments.**
- **For this is what Yehowah has said concerning the house of the king of Judah, You are as Gilead to me, the head of Lebanon. Assuredly I shall make you a wilderness, as for the cities, not one will be inhabited. (Jeremiah 22:6)**
- **And I will sanctify against you those bringing ruin, each one and his weapons, and they must cut down the choicest of your cedars and cause them to fall into the fire. (Jeremiah 22:7)**
- **And many nations will actually pass along by this city and say one to the other; On what account did Yehowah do like this to this great city? (Jeremiah 22:8)**
- **And they will have to say; On account of the fact that they left the covenant of Yehowah their God and proceeded to bow down**

- to other gods and to serve them. (**Jeremiah 22:9**)
- For here I am raising up the Chaldeans, the nation bitter and impetuous, which is going to the wide-open places of earth in order to take possession of residences not belonging to it. (**Habakkuk 1:6**)
 - Similarly, those military forces, principally the Medes and Persians, who brought destruction on Babylon were spoken of by Yehowah as my sanctified ones.
 - The pronouncement against Babylon that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw in vision! (**Isaiah 13:1**)
 - Upon a mountain of bare rocks raise up a signal, you men. Lift up the voice to them, wave the hand, that they may come into the entrances of the nobles. (**Isaiah 13:2**)
 - I myself have issued the command to my sanctified ones. I have also called my mighty ones for expressing my anger, my eminently exultant ones. (**Isaiah 13:3**)
 - The false prophets in Israel, in their greediness, were said to **sanctify war**, against anyone who did not put something into their mouths. Undoubtedly they sanctimoniously claimed divine sanction for their acts of oppression, which included sharing in the responsibility for the persecution and even the death of true prophets and servants of God.
 - This is what Yehowah has said against the prophets that are causing my people to wander, that are biting with their teeth and that actually call out; Peace! That, when anyone does not put something into their mouths, also actually sanctify **war** against him. (**Micah 3:5**)
 - The priests themselves did not say; Where is Yehowah? And the very ones handling the Law did not know me, and the shepherds themselves transgressed against me, and even the prophets prophesied by Baal, and after those who could bring no benefit they walked. (**Jeremiah 2:8**)
 - Because of the sins of her prophets, the errors of her priests, there were in the midst of her those pouring out the blood of righteous ones. (**Lamentations 4:13**)

•• Conscription

- At Yehowah's command Israel's able-bodied males 20 years old and upward were conscripted for military service. According to Josephus, they served up to the age of 50 years. [*Jewish Antiquities*, III, 288, xii, 4]
- The fearful and fainthearted were rejected because Israel's wars were wars of Yehowah, and those displaying weakness of faith in fearfulness would tend to weaken the army's morale.
- Exemptions were given to men who had just completed a new house, as well as to those who had planted a vineyard and had not used its fruitage.
- These exemptions were based on the right of a man to enjoy the fruitage of his work. The newly married man was exempt for one year. During this time the man might be able to have and to see an heir. Here Yehowah revealed his concern and consideration for the family.
- 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**)
- These are the ones registered, whom Moses registered, together with Aaron and the chieftains of Israel, twelve men. They represented one each the house of his fathers. (**Numbers 1:44**)
- 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](#))
- 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](#))
 - The Levites, who took care of the service at the sanctuary, were exempt, showing that Yehowah considered the spiritual welfare of the people more important than military defense.
 - 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](#))
 - These were the registered ones of the sons of Israel according to the house of their fathers, all the registered ones of the camps in their armies were six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty. ([Numbers 2:32](#))

•• **Laws Concerning Assault And Siege Of Cities**

- **Yehowah instructed Israel as to military procedure in the conquest of Canaan. The seven nations of Canaan, named at;**
- **When Yehowah your God at last brings you into the land to which you are going so as to take possession of it, he must also clear away populous nations from before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations more populous and mighty than you are. (Deuteronomy 7:1)**
- **And Yehowah your God will certainly abandon them to you, and you must defeat them. You should without fail devote them to destruction. You must conclude no covenant with them nor show them any favor. (Deuteronomy 7:2)**
- **Were to be exterminated, including women and children. Their cities were to be devoted to destruction.**
- **That is the way you will do to all the cities very far away from you that are not of the cities of these nations. (Deuteronomy 20:15)**
- **It is only of the cities of these peoples that Yehowah your God is giving you as an inheritance that you must not preserve any breathing thing alive. (Deuteronomy 20:16)**
- **Because you should without fail devote them to destruction, the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, just as Yehowah your God has commanded you. (Deuteronomy 20:17)**
- **According to;**
- **In case you draw near to a city to fight against it, you must also announce to it terms of peace. (Deuteronomy 20:10)**
- **And it must occur that if it gives a peaceful answer to you and it has opened up to you, it must even occur that all the people found in it should become yours for forced labor, and they must serve you. (Deuteronomy 20:11)**
- **But if it does not make peace with you, and it actually makes war**

- with you and you have to besiege it. ([Deuteronomy 20:12](#))
- **Yehowah your God also will certainly give it into your hand, and you must strike every male in it with the edge of the sword. ([Deuteronomy 20:13](#))**
 - **Only the women and the little children and the domestic animals and everything that happens to be in the city, all its spoil you will plunder for yourself, and you must eat the spoil of your enemies, whom Yehowah your God has given to you. ([Deuteronomy 20:14](#))**
 - **That is the way you will do to all the cities very far away from you that are not of the cities of these nations. ([Deuteronomy 20:15](#))**
 - **Other cities were first **warned** and terms of peace extended. If the city surrendered, the inhabitants were spared and put to forced labor.**
 - **This opportunity to surrender, together with the assurance that their lives would be spared and their women would not be raped or molested, was an inducement to such cities to capitulate to Israel's army, thus avoiding much bloodshed.**
 - **If the city did not surrender, all males were killed. Killing the men removed danger of later revolt by the city. The women and the little children were spared.**
 - **That **women** here no doubt means **virgins** is indicated by,**
 - **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**)

- And it must occur that if you have found no delight in her, you must then send her away, agreeably to her own soul, but you must by no means sell her for money. You must not deal tyrannically with her after you have humiliated her. (**Deuteronomy 21:14**)
- Where prospective war brides are described as mourning for parents, not for husbands. Also, earlier, when Israel defeated Midian, it is specifically stated that only **virgins** were spared. Such sparing of only virgins would serve to protect Israel from false worship and no doubt from sexually transmitted diseases.
- And they went waging **war** against Midian, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses, and they proceeded to kill every male. (**Numbers 31:7**)
- And now kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has had intercourse with man by lying with a male. (**Numbers 31:17**)
- And preserve alive for yourselves all the little ones among the women who have not known the act of lying with a male. (**Numbers 31:18**)
- As to the justice of God's decree against the Canaanite nations.

Also CANAAN, CANAANITE (Conquest of Canaan by Israel)

- Food-producing trees were not to be cut down for siegeworks.
- In case you lay siege to a city many days by fighting against it so as to capture it, you must not ruin its trees by wielding an ax against them, for you should eat from them, and you must not cut them down, for is the tree of the field a man to be besieged by you? (**Deuteronomy 20:19**)
- Only a tree that you know is not a tree for food, it is the one you should ruin, and you must cut it down and build siegeworks against the city that is making **war** with you, until it falls. (**Deuteronomy 20:20**)

- **Horses of the enemy were hamstringing during the heat of battle to incapacitate them, after the battle they undoubtedly were killed.**
- **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)**

•• **Not All Of Israel's Wars Were Proper**

Israel's lapsing into a course of unfaithfulness was accompanied by conflicts that were little more than power struggles. This was the case with Abimelech's warring against Shechem and Thebez in the time of the Judges

- **In time Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem to the brothers of his mother and began speaking to them and to all the family of the house of his mothers father, saying; (Judges 9:1)**
- **Speak, please, in the hearing of all the landowners of Shechem, Which is better for you, for seventy men, all the sons of Jerubbaal, to rule over you or for one man to rule over you? And you must remember that your bone and your flesh I am. (Judges 9:2)**
- **So the brothers of his mother began speaking all these words about him in the hearing of all the landowners of Shechem so that their heart inclined toward Abimelech, for they said; He is our own brother. (Judges 9:3)**
- **Then they gave him seventy pieces of silver from the house of Baal-berith, and with them Abimelech proceeded to hire idle and insolent men, that they might accompany him. (Judges 9:4)**
- **After that he went to the house of his father at Ophrah and killed his brothers, the sons of Jerubbaal, seventy men, upon one stone, but Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left over, because he had hid. (Judges 9:5)**
- **Subsequently all the landowners of Shechem and all the house of Millo gathered together and went and made Abimelech reign as king, close by the big tree, the pillar that was in Shechem. (Judges 9:6)**

- **When they reported it to Jotham he at once went and stood on the top of Mount Gerizim and raised his voice and called out and said to them; Listen to me, you landowners of Shechem, and let God listen to you. (Judges 9:7)**
- **Once upon a time the trees went to anoint a king over them. So they said to the olive tree; Do be king over us. (Judges 9:8)**
- **But the olive tree said to them; Must I give up my fatness with which they glorify God and men, and must I go to wave over the other trees? (Judges 9:9)**
- **Then the trees said to the fig tree; You come, be queen over us. (Judges 9:10)**
- **But the fig tree said to them; Must I give up my sweetness and my good produce, and must I go to wave over the other trees? (Judges 9:11)**
- **Next the trees said to the vine; You come, be queen over us. (Judges 9:12)**
- **In turn the vine said to them; Must I give up my new wine that makes God and men rejoice, and must I go to wave over the trees? (Judges 9:13)**
- **Finally all the other trees said to the bramble; You come, be king over us. (Judges 9:14)**
- **At this the bramble said to the trees; If it is in truth that you are anointing me as king over you, come, seek refuge under my shadow. But if not, let fire come out of the bramble and consume the cedars of Lebanon. (Judges 9:15)**
- **And now if it is in truth and in faultlessness that you have acted and that you went making Abimelech king, and if it is goodness that you have exercised toward Jerubbaal and his household, and if you have done to him as the doing of his hands deserved. (Judges 9:16)**
- **When my father fought for you and went risking his soul that he might deliver you out of Midian's hand. (Judges 9:17)**

- **And you, for your part, have risen up against the household of my father today that you might kill his sons, seventy men, upon one stone, and that you might make Abimelech, the son of his slave girl, king over the landowners of Shechem just because he is your own brother. (Judges 9:18)**
- **Yes, if it is in truth and in faultlessness that you have acted toward Jerubbaal and his household this day, rejoice over Abimelech and let him too rejoice over you. (Judges 9:19)**
- **But if not, let fire come out of Abimelech and consume the landowners of Shechem and the house of Millo, and let fire come out of the landowners of Shechem and the house of Millo and consume Abimelech. (Judges 9:20)**
- **Then Jotham took to flight and went running off and made his way to Beer, and he took up dwelling there because of Abimelech his brother. (Judges 9:21)**
- **And Abimelech kept playing the prince over Israel three years. (Judges 9:22)**
- **Then God let develop a bad spirit between Abimelech and the landowners of Shechem, and the landowners of Shechem proceeded to deal treacherously with Abimelech. (Judges 9:23)**
- **That the violence done to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might come and that he might put their blood upon Abimelech their brother because he killed them, and upon the landowners of Shechem because they strengthened his hands to kill his brothers. (Judges 9:24)**
- **So the landowners of Shechem set ambush men for him upon the tops of the mountains, and they would rob everyone that would pass by them on the road. In time it was reported to Abimelech. (Judges 9:25)**
- **Then Gaal the son of Ebed and his brothers came and crossed over into Shechem, and the landowners of Shechem began to trust in him. (Judges 9:26)**
- **And they went out as usual into the field and engaged in gathering the grapes of their vineyards and in treading them and in carrying on a festal exultation, after which they went into the**

- house of their god and ate and drank and called down evil upon Abimelech. (**Judges 9:27**)
- **And Gaal the son of Ebed went on to say; Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem that we should serve him? Is he not the son of Jerubbaal, and is not Zebul a commissioner of his? Serve the men of Hamor, Shechem's father, you others, but why should we ourselves serve him? (**Judges 9:28**)**
 - **And if only this people were in my hand! Then I would remove Abimelech. And he went on to say to Abimelech; Make your army numerous and come on out. (**Judges 9:29**)**
 - **And Zebul the prince of the city got to hear the words of Gaal the son of Ebed. Then his anger blazed. (**Judges 9:30**)**
 - **So he sent messengers by subterfuge to Abimelech, saying; Look! Gaal the son of Ebed and his brothers are now come to Shechem, and here they are massing the city against you. (**Judges 9:31**)**
 - **And now rise up by night, you and the people that are with you, and lie in wait in the field. (**Judges 9:32**)**
 - **And it must occur in the morning that as soon as the sun shines forth you should get up early, and you must make a dash against the city, and when he and the people that are with him are going out against you, you must also do to him just as your hand finds it possible. (**Judges 9:33**)**
 - **Accordingly Abimelech and all the people that were with him rose up by night, and they began to lie in wait against Shechem in four bands. (**Judges 9:34**)**
 - **Later Gaal the son of Ebed went out and stood at the entrance of the city gate. Then Abimelech and the people that were with him rose up from the place of ambush. (**Judges 9:35**)**
 - **When Gaal caught sight of the people, he at once said to Zebul; Look! People coming down from the tops of the mountains. But Zebul said to him; The shadows of the mountains are what you are seeing as though they were men. (**Judges 9:36**)**
 - **Later Gaal spoke once more and said; Look! People coming**

- down out of the center of the land, and one band is coming by the way of the big tree of Meonenim. ([Judges 9:37](#))
- **At this Zebul said to him; Where now is that saying of yours that you mouthed, Who is Abimelech that we should serve him? Is not this the people whom you rejected? Go out now, please, and fight against them. ([Judges 9:38](#))**
 - **So Gaal went on out at the head of the landowners of Shechem and took up the fight against Abimelech. ([Judges 9:39](#))**
 - **And Abimelech set out after him, and he went fleeing before him, and the slain kept falling in numbers as far as the entrance of the gate. ([Judges 9:40](#))**
 - **And Abimelech continued to dwell in Arumah, and Zebul proceeded to drive Gaal and his brothers out from dwelling in Shechem. ([Judges 9:41](#))**
 - **And it came about on the next day that the people began to go out into the field. So they told Abimelech. ([Judges 9:42](#))**
 - **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 Abimelech and the bands that were with him made a dash that they might stand at the entrance of the city gate, while two bands made a dash against all who were in the field, and they went striking them down. ([Judges 9:44](#))**
 - **And Abimelech fought against the city all that day and got to capture the city, and he killed the people that were in it, after which he pulled the city down and sowed it with salt. ([Judges 9:45](#))**
 - **When all the landowners of the tower of Shechem heard of it, they immediately went to the vault of the house of El-berith. ([Judges 9:46](#))**
 - **Then it was reported to Abimelech that all the landowners of the tower of Shechem had collected together. ([Judges 9:47](#))**

- **At that Abimelech went up Mount Zalmon, he and all the people that were with him. Abimelech now took an ax in his hand and cut down a branch of the trees and lifted it up and put it on his shoulder and said to the people that were with him; What you have seen me do, hurry up, do like me! (Judges 9:48)**
- **So all the people cut down also each one a branch for himself and went following Abimelech. Then they put them against the vault, and over them they set the vault on fire, so that all the men of the tower of Shechem died too, about a thousand men and women. (Judges 9:49)**
- **And Abimelech proceeded to go to Thebez and to camp against Thebez and capture it. (Judges 9:50)**
- **As a strong tower happened to be in the middle of the city, there was where all the men and women and all the landowners of the city went fleeing, after which they shut it behind them and climbed onto the roof of the tower. (Judges 9:51)**
- **And Abimelech made his way to the tower and began fighting against it, and he went on up close to the entrance of the tower to burn it with fire. (Judges 9:52)**
- **Then a certain woman pitched an upper millstone upon Abimelech's head and broke his skull in pieces. (Judges 9:53)**
- **So he quickly called the attendant bearing his weapons and said to him; Draw your sword and put me to death, for fear they should say about me, It was a woman that killed him. Immediately his attendant ran him through, so that he died. (Judges 9:54)**
- **When the men of Israel got to see that Abimelech had died, they now went each one to his place. (Judges 9:55)**
- **Thus God made the evil of Abimelech that he had done to his father by killing his seventy brothers come back. (Judges 9:56)**
- **And all the evil of the men of Shechem God made come back upon their own heads, that the malediction of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal might come upon them. (Judges 9:57)**

- **As well as Omri's warfare against Zimri and Tibni, which led to his being firmly established in the kingship over the ten-tribe kingdom.**
- **In time the people that were encamped heard it said; Zimri has conspired and also struck down the king. So all Israel made Omri, the chief of the army, king over Israel on that day in the camp. (1 Kings 16:16)**
- **Omri and all Israel with him now went on up from Gibbethon and began to lay siege to Tirzah. (1 Kings 16:17)**
- **And it came about that as soon as Zimri saw that the city had been captured, he then came into the dwelling tower of the king's house and burned the king's house over himself with fire, so that he died. (1 Kings 16:18)**
- **For the sins of his with which he had sinned by doing what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah by walking in the way of Jeroboam and in his sin which he did by causing Israel to sin. (1 Kings 16:19)**
- **As for the rest of the affairs of Zimri and his conspiracy with which he conspired, are they not written in the book of the affairs of the days of the kings of Israel? (1 Kings 16:20)**
- **It was then that the people of Israel began to divide themselves into two parts. There was one part of the people that became followers of Tibni the son of Ginath, to make him king, and the other part followers of Omri. (1 Kings 16:21)**
- **Finally the people that were following Omri overcame the people that were following Tibni the son of Ginath, so that Tibni met death, and Omri began to reign. (1 Kings 16:22)**
- **Also, instead of relying on Yehowah for protection from their enemies, the Israelites began to trust in military might, horses and chariots. Thus, in the time of Isaiah, the land of Judah was filled with horses and there was no limit to their chariots.**
- **The thing that Isaiah the son of Amoz visioned concerning Judah and Jerusalem: (Isaiah 2:1)**
- **And their land is filled with silver and gold, and there is no limit to their treasures. And their land is filled with horses, and there**

is no limit to their chariots. ([Isaiah 2:7](#))

· Ancient War Strategy And Tactics

- Spies were sometimes sent out ahead of the attack to ascertain conditions existing in the land. Such spies were not sent to initiate unrest, revolt, or subversive underground movements.
- Yehowah now spoke to Moses, saying; ([Numbers 13:1](#))
- Send out for yourself men that they may spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the sons of Israel. You will send out one man for each tribe of his fathers, each one a chieftain among them. ([Numbers 13:2](#))
- When Moses was sending them to spy out the land of Canaan, he proceeded to say to them; Go up here into the Negeb, and you must go up into the mountainous region. ([Numbers 13:17](#))
- And you must see what the land is and the people who are dwelling on it, whether they are strong or weak, whether they are few or many. ([Numbers 13:18](#))
- And you must see what the land is and the people who are dwelling on it, whether they are strong or weak, whether they are few or many. ([Numbers 13:18](#))
- Then Joshua the son of Nun sent two men out secretly from Shittim as spies, saying; Go, take a look at the land and Jericho. So they went and came to the house of a prostitute woman whose name was Rahab, and they took up lodging there. ([Joshua 2:1](#))
- Eventually the sons of Dan sent five men of their family, men from among them, men who were valiant fellows, out from Zorah and Eshtaol, to spy out the land and to explore it. So they said to them; Go, explore the land. In time they came into the mountainous region of Ephraim as far as the house of Micah and got to spend the night there. ([Judges 18:2](#))
- Eventually the sons of Dan sent five men of their family, men from among them, men who were valiant fellows, out from Zorah and Eshtaol, to spy out the land and to explore it. So they said to them; Go, explore the land. In time they came into the

- mountainous region of Ephraim as far as the house of Micah and got to spend the night there. (**Judges 18:2**)
- **Special trumpet calls were employed for mustering forces, for war calls, and for signaling unified 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, 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 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 Yehowah's spirit enveloped Gideon so that he went blowing the horn, and the Abi-ezrites got to be called together after him. (**Judges 6:34**)**
 - **In time Gideon came with the hundred men who were with him to the edge of the camp at the start of the middle night watch. They had just got through posting the sentries. And they proceeded to blow the horns, and there was a dashing to pieces of the large water jars that were in their hands. (**Judges 7:19**)**
 - **At that the three bands blew the horns and shattered the large jars and took fresh hold on the torches with their left hand and with their right hand on the horns to blow them, and they began calling out; Yehowah's sword and Gideon's! (**Judges 7:20**)**
 - **On occasion forces were divided and deployed in flanking attacks, or in ambush and decoy operations.**
 - **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 you must do to Ai and to its king just as you did to Jericho and its king. Only you people may plunder its spoil and its domestic animals for yourselves. Set an ambush of yours against the city at its rear. (Joshua 8:2)**
- **Accordingly Joshua and all the people of **war** rose to go up to Ai, and Joshua proceeded to choose thirty thousand men, valiant mighty ones, and to send them off by night. (Joshua 8:3)**
- **And he went on to command them, saying; See, you are lying in ambush against the city to the rear of the city. Do not go very far away from the city, and you must all of you hold yourselves in readiness. (Joshua 8:4)**
- **As for me and all the people who are with me, we shall go close to the city. And it must occur that, in case they should come out to meet us just as at the first, we must then flee before them. (Joshua 8:5)**
- **And they must come out after us until we have drawn them away from the city, for they will say; They are fleeing before us just as at the first. And we must flee before them. (Joshua 8:6)**
- **Then you, you will rise up from the ambush, and you must take possession of the city, and Yehowah your God will certainly give it into your hands. (Joshua 8:7)**
- **And it must occur that as soon as you have seized the city, you should set the city on fire. According to Yehowah's word you should do. See, I have commanded you. (Joshua 8:8)**
- **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)**
- **At that David inquired of Yehowah, but he said; You must not go up. Go around to the rear of them, and you must come against them in front of the baca bushes. (2 Samuel 5:23)**
- **And let it occur that, when you hear the sound of a marching in the tops of the baca bushes, at that time you act with decision, because at that time Yehowah will have gone out ahead of you to strike down the camp of the Philistines. (2 Samuel 5:24)**

- **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)**
- **In at least one instance, at Yehowah's direction, singers of praise to God were put in the vanguard, ahead of the armed forces. God fought that day for Israel, throwing the camp of the enemy into confusion so that the enemy soldiers killed one another.**
- **And they proceeded to rise early in the morning and go out to the wilderness of Tekoa. And as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood up and then said; Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem! Put faith in Yehowah your God that you may prove yourselves of long duration. Put faith in his prophets and so prove successful. (2 Chronicles 20:20)**
- **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)**
- **Fighting was to a great extent hand to hand, man against man. A variety of weapons were used swords, spears, javelins, arrows, slingstones, and so forth. During the conquest of the Promised Land, Israel did not rely on horses and chariots, their trust was in the saving power of Yehowah.**
- **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)**

- **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)**
- **The horse is something prepared for the day of battle, but salvation belongs to Yehowah. (Proverbs 21:31)**
- **Not until later times did the armies of Israel employ horses and chariots, as did the Egyptians and others.**
- **And Solomon came to have forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots and twelve thousand horsemen. (1 Kings 4:26)**
- **As for the servants of the king of Syria, they said to him; Their God is a God of mountains. That is why they proved stronger than we were. So, on the other hand, let us fight against them on the level land and see whether we shall not prove stronger than they are. (1 Kings 20:23)**
- **And do this thing; Remove the kings each one from his place and put in governor's instead of them. (1 Kings 20:24)**
- **As for you, you should number a military force for yourself equal to the military force that fell from your side, with horse for horse and chariot for chariot, and let us fight against them on the level land and see whether we shall not prove stronger than they are. Accordingly he listened to their voice and did just that way. (1 Kings 20:25)**
- **So he proceeded to make his war chariots ready, and he took his people with him. (Exodus 14:6)**
- **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)**
- **Nor what he did to the military forces of Egypt, to his horses and his war chariots against the faces of which he made the waters of the Red Sea overflow when they were chasing after them, and Yehowah proceeded to destroy them till this day. (Deuteronomy**

11:4)

- **Foreign armies were sometimes equipped with war chariots having iron scythes extending from their axles.**
- **Then the sons of Joseph said; The mountainous region is not enough for us, and there are war chariots with iron scythes among all the Canaanites dwelling in the land of the low plain, both those who are in Beth-shean and its dependent towns and those who are in the low plain of Jezreel. (Joshua 17:16)**
- **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)**
- **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)**
- **War tactics changed during the course of the centuries. Generally, Israel did not concentrate on developing instruments of offensive warfare, though considerable attention was given to fortification.**
- **King Uzziah of Judah is noted for building engines of war, the invention of engineers, but these were primarily for the defense of Jerusalem.**
- **And Uzziah continued to prepare for them, for the entire army, shields and lances and helmets and coats of mail and bows and slingstones. (2 Chronicles 26:14)**
- **Further, he made in Jerusalem engines of war, the invention of engineers, that they might come to be upon the towers and upon the corners, to shoot arrows and great stones. Consequently his fame went out to a great distance, for he was helped wonderfully until he was strong. (2 Chronicles 26:15)**
- **In order to be able to attack the higher and weaker part of a city's wall, the Assyrian and Babylonian armies, particularly, were known for their siege walls and their siege ramparts.**

- **These ramparts served as inclined planes up which towers with battering rams were brought, from these towers, the archers and slingers fought. Along with these were other forms of siege engines, including giant rock throwers.**
- **That is why this is what Yehowah has said concerning the king of Assyria; He will not come into this city nor will he shoot an arrow there nor confront it with a shield nor cast up a siege rampart against it. (2 Kings 19:32)**
- **Look! With siege ramparts men have come to the city to capture it, and the very city will certainly be given into the hand of the Chaldeans who are fighting against it, because of the sword and the famine and the pestilence, and what you have said has happened, and here you are seeing it. (Jeremiah 32:24)**
- **And you must lay siege against it and build a siege wall against it and throw up a siege rampart against it and set encampments against it and put battering rams all around against it. (Ezekiel 4:2)**
- **Because the days will come upon you when your enemies will build around you a fortification with pointed stakes and will encircle you and distress you from every side. (Luke 19:43)**
- **At the same time the defenders of the city attempted to hold off the attack by means of archers, slingers, as well as by soldiers who would throw firebrands from their walls and towers and from missile-throwing engines inside the city.**
- **Who was it that struck down Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman that pitched an upper millstone upon him from on top of the wall so that he died at Thebez? Why did you men have to go so close to the wall? You must also say; Your servant Uriah the Hittite died too. (2 Samuel 11:21)**
- **And the shooters kept shooting at your servants from on top of the wall, so that some of the servants of the king died, and your servant Uriah the Hittite also died. (2 Samuel 11:24)**
- **Further, he made in Jerusalem engines of war, the invention of engineers, that they might come to be upon the towers and upon the corners, to shoot arrows and great stones. Consequently his fame went out to a great distance, for he was helped wonderfully**

until he was strong. (2 Chronicles 26:15)

- Furthermore, he took courage and built up all the broken-down wall and raised towers upon it, and on the outside another wall, and repaired the Mound of the City of David, and made missiles in abundance and shields. (2 Chronicles 32:5)
- In assaulting walled fortifications, one of the first things attempted was the cutting off of the city's water supply, while the city about to be besieged often stopped up water sources around the city to deprive the attackers of their use.
- When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come with his face set for war against Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 32:2)
- Then he decided with his princes and his mighty men to stop up the waters of the springs that were outside the city, and so they helped him. (2 Chronicles 32:3)
- Accordingly many people were collected together, and they went stopping up all the fountains and the torrent that floods through the middle of the land, saying; Why should the kings of Assyria come and actually find a great deal of water? (2 Chronicles 32:4)
- And Hezekiah was the one that stopped up the upper source of the waters of Gihon and kept them directed straight along down to the west to the City of David, and Hezekiah continued to prove successful in every work of his. (2 Chronicles 32:30)
- On defeating an enemy, the victors sometimes stopped up wells and springs in the area and spread stones over the ground, occasionally sowing the ground with salt.
- And Abimelech fought against the city all that day and got to capture the city, and he killed the people that were in it, after which he pulled the city down and sowed it with salt. (Judges 9:45)
- When they came into the camp of Israel, the Israelites immediately rose up and began striking the Moabites down so that they took to flight from before them. Hence they came into Moab, striking the Moabites down as they came. (2 Kings 3:24)
- And the cities they went throwing down, and, as for every good

tract of land, they would pitch each one his stone and actually fill it, and every spring of water they would stop up, and every good tree they would fell, until they left only the stones of Kir-hareseth remaining in it, and the slingers began going around it and striking it down. ([2 Kings 3:25](#))

See Also ARMS, ARMOR

See Also FORTIFICATIONS

•• Jesus Foretells War

• **Jesus, the man of peace, observed that those who take the sword will perish by the sword.**

• **Then Jesus said to him; Return your sword to its place, for all those who take the sword will perish by the sword. ([Matthew 26:52](#))**

• **He declared to Pilate that, had his Kingdom been of this world, his attendants would have fought to prevent his being delivered up to the Jews.**

• **Jesus answered; My kingdom is no part of this world. If my kingdom were part of this world, my attendants would have fought that I should not be delivered up to the Jews. But, as it is, my kingdom is not from this source. ([John 18:36](#))**

• **Yet he foretold that Jerusalem, because of rejecting him as the Messiah, would in time suffer siege and desolation, during which her **children**, inhabitants, would be dashed to the ground.**

• **And when he got nearby, he viewed the city and wept over it. ([Luke 19:41](#))**

• **Saying; If you, even you, had discerned in this day the things having to do with peace, but now they have been hid from your eyes. ([Luke 19:42](#))**

• **Because the days will come upon you when your enemies will build around you a fortification with pointed stakes and will encircle you and distress you from every side. ([Luke 19:43](#))**

• **And they will dash you and your children within you to the ground, and they will not leave a stone upon a stone in you,**

because you did not discern the time of your being inspected.
([Luke 19:44](#))

- And they will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive into all the nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled on by the nations, until the appointed times of the nations are fulfilled. ([Luke 21:24](#))
- Shortly before his death, Jesus gave prophecies that applied to that generation and also to the time when his presence in Kingdom power would begin.
- You are going to hear of **wars** and reports of wars, see that you are not terrified. For these things must take place, but the end is not yet. ([Matthew 24:6](#))
- **For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom**, and there will be food shortages and earthquakes in one place after another. ([Matthew 24:7](#))
- Moreover, when you hear of **wars** and reports of **wars**, do not be terrified, these things must take place, but the end is not yet. ([Mark 13:7](#))
- **For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom**, there will be earthquakes in one place after another, there will be food shortages. These are a beginning of pangs of distress. ([Mark 13:8](#))
- Furthermore, when you hear of **wars** and disorders, do not be terrified. For these things must occur first, but the end does not occur immediately. ([Luke 21:9](#))
- Then he went on to say to them; Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ([Luke 21:10](#))

•• Christ Wages War As King Of Kings

- The Bible reveals that the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, with all authority in heaven and on earth granted to him by his Father, will engage in a **warfare** that will destroy all of God's enemies and establish everlasting peace, as his title Prince of Peace implies.
- And Jesus approached and spoke to them, saying; All authority

has been given me in heaven and on the earth. (**Matthew 28:18**)

- **But, to you who suffer tribulation, relief along with us at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with his powerful angels. (2 Thessalonians 1:7)**
- **In a flaming fire, as he brings vengeance upon those who do not know God and those who do not obey the Good News about our Lord Jesus. (2 Thessalonians 1:8)**
- **These very ones will undergo the judicial punishment of everlasting destruction from before the Lord and from the glory of his strength. (2 Thessalonians 1:9)**
- **At the time he comes to be glorified in connection with his holy ones and to be regarded in that day with wonder in connection with all those who exercised faith, because the witness we gave met with faith among you. (2 Thessalonians 1:10)**
- **For there has been a child born to us, there has been a son given to us. The princely rule will come to be upon his shoulder. His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)**
- **The apostle John had a vision of things to take place after Christ's enthronement in heaven. The words of,**
- **Let me refer to the decree of Yehowah; He has said to me; You are my son, I, today, I have become your father. (Psalms 2:7)**
- **Ask of me, that I may give nations as your inheritance and the ends of the earth as your own possession. (Psalms 2:8)**
- **The utterance of Yehowah to my Lord is; Sit at my right hand until I place your enemies as a stool for your feet. (Psalms 110:1)**
- **The rod of your strength Yehowah will send out of Zion, saying; Go subduing in the midst of your enemies. (Psalms 110:2)**
- **Had foretold that God's Son would be invited to ask of Yehowah the nations as his inheritance, and that Yehowah would respond by sending him forth to go subduing in the midst of his enemies.**
- **But this man offered one sacrifice for sins perpetually and sat**

down at the right hand of God. (**Hebrews 10:12**)

- From then on awaiting until his enemies should be placed as a stool for his feet. (**Hebrews 10:13**)
- John's vision depicted a **war** in heaven in which Michael, that is, Jesus Christ, led the armies of heaven in a war against the Dragon, Satan the Devil.
- The outcome of that war was the hurling of the Devil and his angels to the earth. This war immediately followed the birth of the male child who was to rule the nations with a rod of iron.
- 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**)
- A loud voice in heaven then announced; Now have come to pass the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ.
- This brought relief and joy to the angels, but it presaged troubles, including **wars**, for the earth, as the declaration continued; 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.
- And I heard a loud voice in heaven say; Now have come to pass the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ, because the accuser of our brothers has been hurled down, who accuses them day and night before our God! (**Revelation 12:10**)
- 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**)

See Also MICHAEL 1

- After Satan was hurled to the earth, he made God's servants on earth, the remaining ones of the seed of the woman, who observe the commandments of God and have the work of bearing witness to Jesus, his chief target.
- Satan initiated **warfare** against them that included both a spiritual conflict and actual persecution, even resulting in death for some.
- Now when the dragon saw that it was hurled down to the earth, it persecuted the woman that gave birth to the male child. (**Revelation 12:13**)
- And the dragon grew wrathful at the woman, and went off to wage **war** with the remaining ones of her seed, who observe the commandments of God and have the work of bearing witness to Jesus. (**Revelation 12:17**)
- Succeeding chapters of (**Revelation Chapters 13,17,18,19**) describe the agents and instruments Satan uses against them, as well as the victorious outcome for God's holy ones under their Leader Jesus Christ.

· War Of The Great Day Of God Almighty

- The (**Revelation Chapter 19**) of gives a view of the greatest **war** of all human history, surpassing anything that men have ever witnessed. Earlier in the vision it is called the **war of the great day of God the Almighty**.
- Aligned against Yehowah and the Lord Jesus Christ as the Commander of God's armies, the hosts of heaven, are the symbolic wild beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to the site of this war by expressions inspired by demons.
- They are, in fact, expressions inspired by demons and perform signs, and they go forth to the kings of the entire inhabited earth, to gather them together to the **war of the great day of God the Almighty**. (**Revelation 16:14**)
- 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**)
- **None of God's earthly servants are pictured as having part in this battle. The earthly kings will battle with the Lamb, but, because he is Lord of lords and King of kings, the Lamb will conquer them.**
 - **These will battle with the Lamb, but, because he is Lord of lords and King of kings, the Lamb will conquer them. Also, those called and chosen and faithful with him will do so. (**Revelation 17:14**)**
 - **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**)**
 - **And the wild beast was caught, and along with it the false prophet that performed in front of it the signs with which he misled those who received the mark of the wild beast and those who render worship to its image. While still alive, they both were hurled into the fiery lake that burns with sulphur. (**Revelation 19:20**)**
 - **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**)**
 - **Following this fight, Satan the Devil himself is to be bound for a thousand years, that he might not mislead the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended.**
 - **And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven with the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. (**Revelation 20:1**)**
 - **And he seized the dragon, the original serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. (**Revelation 20:2**)**
 - **And he hurled him into the abyss and shut it and sealed it over him, that he might not mislead the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After these things he must be let loose for a little while. (**Revelation 20:3**)**

See Also HAR–MAGEDON

- With the conclusion of this **war**, the earth will enjoy peace for a thousand years. The Psalms that declares; Yehowah is making **wars** to cease to the extremity of the earth.
- The bow he breaks apart and does cut the spear in pieces, the wagons he burns in the fire, had initial fulfillment in God's bringing peace to Israel's land by wrecking the enemys war instruments.
- After Christ defeats the promoters of **war** at Har–Magedon, the extremity of this earthly globe will enjoy full and satisfying peace.
- Come, you people, behold the activities of Yehowah, how he has set astonishing events on the earth. (**Psalms 46:8**)
- He is making **wars** to cease to the extremity of the earth. The bow he breaks apart and does cut the spear in pieces, the wagons he burns in the fire. (**Psalms 46:9**)
- Give in, you people, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. (**Psalms 46:10**)
- Persons favored with eternal life will be those who have beaten their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning shears and who do not learn **war anymore**. For the very mouth of Yehowah of armies has spoken it.
- And he will certainly render judgment among the nations and set matters straight respecting many peoples. And they will have to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning shears. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither will they learn **war anymore**. (**Isaiah 2:4**)
- And he will certainly render judgment among many peoples, and set matters straight respecting mighty nations far away. And they will have to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning shears. They will not lift up sword, nation against nation, neither will they learn **war anymore**. (**Micah 4:3**)
- And they will actually sit, each one under his vine and under his fig tree, and there will be no one making them tremble, for the very mouth of Yehowah of armies has spoken it. (**Micah 4:4**)

· War Threat Forever Ended

- Revelations vision goes on to show that at the end of the thousand years Satan the Devil will be brought back from his binding in the abyss and will again induce many to come up to wage **war** against those remaining loyal to God.
- But no damage will be done, for fire will come down out of heaven and devour these enemies, thereby removing all threat of **war** forever.
- Now as soon as the thousand years have been ended, Satan will be let loose out of his prison. (**Revelation 20:7**)
- And he will go out to mislead those nations in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the **war**. The number of these is as the sand of the sea. (**Revelation 20:8**)
- And they advanced over the breadth of the earth and encircled the camp of the holy ones and the beloved city. But fire came down out of heaven and devoured them. (**Revelation 20:9**)
- And the Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulphur, where both the wild beast and the false prophet already were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (**Revelation 20:10**)

· Christian Warfare

- While the Christian does not engage in a physical **war** against blood and flesh.
- Because we have a **wrestling**, not against blood and flesh, but against the governments, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places. (**Ephesians 6:12**)
- He is engaged in **warfare** nonetheless, a spiritual fight. The apostle Paul describes the war waged within the Christian between **sin's law** and **God's Law**, or the Law of the mind, the Christian mind in harmony with God.
- For what I am working out I do not know. For what I wish, this I do not practice, but what I hate is what I do. (**Romans 7:15**)

- **However, if what I do not wish is what I do, I agree that the Law is fine. (Romans 7:16)**
- **But now the one working it out is no longer I, but sin that resides in me. (Romans 7:17)**
- **For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, there dwells nothing good, for ability to wish is present with me, but ability to work out what is fine is not present. (Romans 7:18)**
- **For the good that I wish I do not do, but the bad that I do not wish is what I practice. (Romans 7:19)**
- **If, now, what I do not wish is what I do, the one working it out is no longer I, but the sin dwelling in me. (Romans 7:20)**
- **I find, then, this Law in my case, that when I wish to do what is right, what is bad is present with me. (Romans 7:21)**
- **I really delight in the Law of God according to the man I am within. (Romans 7:22)**
- **But I behold in my members another law warring against the Law of my mind and leading me captive to sin's law that is in my members. (Romans 7:23)**
- **Miserable man that I am! Who will rescue me from the body undergoing this death? (Romans 7:24)**
- **Thanks to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So, then, with my mind I myself am a slave to God's law, but with my flesh to sins law. (Romans 7:25)**
- **This warfare of the Christian is an agonizing one, requiring the exertion of every effort for a person to come off winner. But he can be confident of victory through the undeserved kindness of God through Christ and the help of God's spirit.**
- **Who will separate us from the love of the Christ? Will tribulation or distress or persecution or hunger or nakedness or danger or sword? (Romans 8:35)**
- **Just as it is written: For your sake we are being put to death all**

day long, we have been accounted as sheep for slaughtering.
(Romans 8:36)

- To the contrary, in all these things we are coming off completely victorious through him that loved us. (Romans 8:37)
- For I am convinced that neither death nor life nor angels nor governments nor things now here nor things to come nor powers (Romans 8:38)
- Nor height nor depth nor any other creation will be able to separate us from God's love that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:39)
- Jesus said of this fight:
- Exert yourselves vigorously to get in through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will seek to get in but will not be able. (Luke 13:24)
- And the apostle Peter counseled; Keep abstaining from fleshly desires, which are the very ones that carry on a conflict or, are doing **military service**, *stra-teu'on-tai*, against the soul.
- Beloved, I exhort you as aliens and temporary residents to keep abstaining from fleshly desires, which are the very ones that carry on a conflict against the soul. (1 Peter 2:11)
- From what source are there **wars** and from what source are there fights among you? Are they not from this source, namely, from your cravings for sensual pleasure that carry on a conflict in your members? (James 4:1)
- You desire, and yet you do not have. You go on murdering and coveting, and yet you are not able to obtain. You go on fighting and waging **war**. You do not have because of your not asking. (James 4:2)

·· Against Wicked Spirits

- In addition to this **warfare** against sins law, the Christian has a fight against the demons, who take advantage of the tendencies of the flesh by tempting the Christian to sin.

- **Because we have a wrestling, not against blood and flesh, but against the governments, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)**
- **In this **warfare** the demons also induce those under their influence to tempt or to oppose and persecute Christians in an effort to get them to break their integrity to God.**
- **Do not be depriving each other of it, except by mutual consent for an appointed time, that you may devote time to prayer and may come together again, that Satan may not keep tempting you for your lack of self-regulation. (1 Corinthians 7:5)**
- **That we may not be overreached by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his designs. (2 Corinthians 2:11)**
- **Just because of the excess of the revelations. Therefore, that I might not feel overly exalted, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan, to keep slapping me, that I might not be overly exalted. (2 Corinthians 12:7)**
- **Now Jesus, full of Holy Spirit, turned away from the Jordan, and he was led about by the spirit in the wilderness. (Luke 4:1)**
- **For forty days, while being tempted by the Devil. Furthermore, he ate nothing in those days, and so, when they were concluded, he felt hungry. (Luke 4:2)**
- **At this the Devil said to him; If you are a son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread. (Luke 4:3)**
- **But Jesus replied to him; It is written: Man must not live by bread alone. (Luke 4:4)**
- **So he brought him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the inhabited earth in an instant of time. (Luke 4:5)**
- **And the Devil said to him; I will give you all this authority and the glory of them, because it has been delivered to me, and to whomever I wish I give it. (Luke 4:6)**
- **You, therefore, if you do an act of worship before me, it will all be yours. (Luke 4:7)**

- In reply Jesus said to him; It is written: It is Yehowah your God you must worship, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service. ([Luke 4:8](#))
- Now he led him into Jerusalem and stationed him upon the battlement of the temple and said to him; If you are a son of God, hurl yourself down from here. ([Luke 4:9](#))
- For it is written, He will give his angels a charge concerning you, to preserve you. ([Luke 4:10](#))
- And, They will carry you on their hands, that you may at no time strike your foot against a stone. ([Luke 4:11](#))
- In answer Jesus said to him; It is said; You must not put Yehowah your God to the test. ([Luke 4:12](#))
- So the Devil, having concluded all the temptation, retired from him until another convenient time. ([Luke 4:13](#))

·· **Against False Teachings**

- The apostle Paul also spoke of a **warfare** that he and his associates were waging, in carrying out their commission as those appointed to care for the Christian congregation.
- For though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage **warfare** according to what we are in the flesh. ([2 Corinthians 10:3](#))
- The congregation at Corinth had been wrongly influenced by presumptuous men called by Paul false apostles who, by giving undue attention to personalities, had caused divisions, sects, in the congregation.
- For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ([2 Corinthians 11:13](#))
- And no wonder, for Satan himself keeps transforming himself into an angel of light. ([2 Corinthians 11:14](#))
- It is therefore nothing great if his ministers also keep transforming themselves into ministers of righteousness. But their end shall be according to their works. ([2 Corinthians 11:15](#))

- They became, in effect, followers of men such as Apollos, Paul, and Cephas.
- For the disclosure was made to me about you, my brothers, by those of the house of Chloe, that dissensions exist among you. (**1 Corinthians 1:11**)
- What I mean is this, that each one of you says; I belong to Paul, but I to Apollos, but I to Cephas, but I to Christ. (**1 Corinthians 1:12**)
- The members of the congregation lost the spiritual viewpoint, that these men were merely representatives of Christ, unitedly serving the same purpose. They became **fleshly**.
- And so, brothers, I was not able to speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to fleshly men, as to babes in Christ. (**1 Corinthians 3:1**)
- I fed you milk, not something to eat, for you were not yet strong enough. In fact, neither are you strong enough now. (**1 Corinthians 3:2**)
- For you are yet fleshly. For whereas there are jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly and are you not walking as men do? (**1 Corinthians 3:3**)
- For when one says; I belong to Paul, but another says; I to Apollos, are you not simply men? (**1 Corinthians 3:4**)
- What, then, is Apollos? Yes, what is Paul? Ministers through whom you became believers, even as the Lord granted each one. (**1 Corinthians 3:5**)
- I planted, Apollos watered, but God kept making it grow. (**1 Corinthians 3:6**)
- So that neither is he that plants anything nor is he that waters, but God who makes it grow. (**1 Corinthians 3:7**)
- Now he that plants and he that waters are one, but each person will receive his own reward according to his own labor. (**1 Corinthians 3:8**)

- For we are God's fellow workers. You people are God's field under cultivation, God's building. (**1 Corinthians 3:9**)
- They viewed men in the congregation according to what they were in the flesh, their appearance, natural abilities, personalities, and so forth, instead of regarding them as spiritual men.
- They failed to recognize that God's spirit was operating in the congregation, and that men such as Paul, Peter, and Apollos were accomplishing what they did by God's spirit, for His glory.
- Therefore, Paul was impelled to write them; Indeed I beg that, when present, I may not use boldness with that confidence with which I am counting on taking bold measures against some who appraise us as if we walked according to what we are in the flesh.
- For though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage **warfare** according to what we are in the flesh. For the weapons of our **warfare** are not fleshly, but powerful by God for overturning strongly entrenched things.
- For we are overturning reasonings and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are bringing every thought into captivity to make it obedient to the Christ.
- Indeed I beg that, when present, I may not use boldness with that confidence with which I am counting on taking bold measures against some who appraise us as if we walked according to what we are in the flesh. (**2 Corinthians 10:2**)
- For though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage **warfare** according to what we are in the flesh. (**2 Corinthians 10:3**)
- For the **weapons** of our **warfare** are not fleshly, but powerful by God for overturning strongly entrenched things. (**2 Corinthians 10:4**)
- For we are overturning reasonings and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are bringing every thought into captivity to make it obedient to the Christ. (**2 Corinthians 10:5**)

- **Paul wrote to Timothy, whom he had left in Ephesus to care for the congregation there;**
- **This mandate I commit to you, child, Timothy, in accord with the predictions that led directly on to you, that by these you may go on waging the fine warfare. (1 Timothy 1:18)**
- **Holding faith and a good conscience, which some have thrust aside and have experienced shipwreck concerning their faith. (1 Timothy 1:19)**
- **Not only did Timothy have before him conflicts because of sinful flesh and because of the opposition of the enemies of the truth but he also had to wage warfare against the infiltration of false doctrine and of those who would corrupt the congregation.**
- **Just as I encouraged you to stay in Ephesus when I was about to go my way into Macedonia, so I do now, that you might command certain ones not to teach different doctrine. (1 Timothy 1:3)**
- **Nor to pay attention to false stories and to genealogies, which end up in nothing, but which furnish questions for research rather than a dispensing of anything by God in connection with faith. (1 Timothy 1:4)**
- **Really the objective of this mandate is love out of a clean heart and out of a good conscience and out of faith without hypocrisy. (1 Timothy 1:5)**
- **By deviating from these things certain ones have been turned aside into idle talk. (1 Timothy 1:6)**
- **Wanting to be teachers of law, but not perceiving either the things they are saying or the things about which they are making strong assertions. (1 Timothy 1:7)**
- **By giving these advices to the brothers you will be a fine minister of Christ Jesus, one nourished with the words of the faith and of the fine teaching which you have followed closely. (1 Timothy 4:6)**
- **Keep on giving these commands and teaching them. (1 Timothy 4:11)**

- **Let no man ever look down on your youth. On the contrary, become an example to the faithful ones in speaking, in conduct, in love, in faith, in chasteness. (1 Timothy 4:12)**
- **While I am coming, continue applying yourself to public reading, to exhortation, to teaching. (1 Timothy 4:13)**
- **Do not be neglecting the gift in you that was given you through a prediction and when the body of older men laid their hands upon you. (1 Timothy 4:14)**
- **Ponder over these things, be absorbed in them, that your advancement may be manifest to all persons. (1 Timothy 4:15)**
- **Pay constant attention to yourself and to your teaching. Stay by these things, for by doing this you will save both yourself and those who listen to you. (1 Timothy 4:16)**
- **His actions would fortify the congregation against the apostasy that Paul knew would occur after the apostles passed off the scene.**
- **For there will be a period of time when they will not put up with the healthful teaching, but, in accord with their own desires, they will accumulate teachers for themselves to have their ears tickled. (2 Timothy 4:3)**
- **And they will turn their ears away from the truth, whereas they will be turned aside to false stories. (2 Timothy 4:4)**
- **You, though, keep your senses in all things, suffer evil, do the work of an evangelizer, fully accomplish your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:5)**
- **So it was a real fight that Timothy had to wage.**
- **Paul was able to say to Timothy;**
- **I have fought the fine fight, I have run the course to the finish, I have observed the faith. (2 Timothy 4:7)**
- **Paul had maintained his faithfulness to Yehowah and Jesus Christ by right conduct and service in the face of opposition, suffering, and persecution.**

- **Are they ministers of Christ? I reply like a madman, I am more outstandingly one: in labors more plentifully, in prisons more plentifully, in blows to an excess, in near-deaths often. (2 Corinthians 11:23)**
- **By Jews I five times received forty strokes less one. (2 Corinthians 11:24)**
- **Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I experienced shipwreck, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. (2 Corinthians 11:25)**
- **In journeys often, in dangers from rivers, in dangers from highwaymen, in dangers from my own race, in dangers from the nations, in dangers in the city, in dangers in the wilderness, in dangers at sea, in dangers among false brothers. (2 Corinthians 11:26)**
- **In labor and toil, in sleepless nights often, in hunger and thirst, in abstinence from food many times, in cold and nakedness. (2 Corinthians 11:27)**
- **Besides those things of an external kind, there is what rushes in on me from day to day, the anxiety for all the congregations. (2 Corinthians 11:28)**
- **He had additionally discharged the responsibility of his office as an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, fighting the **war** to keep the Christian congregation clean and spotless, as a chaste virgin, and as a **pillar and support of the truth**.**
- **But in case I am delayed, that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in God's household, which is the congregation of the living God, a **pillar and support of the truth**. (1 Timothy 3:15)**
- **Let a man so appraise us as being subordinates of Christ and stewards of sacred secrets of God. (1 Corinthians 4:1)**
- **Besides, in this case, what is looked for in **stewards** is for a man to be found faithful. (1 Corinthians 4:2)**
- **For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy, for I personally**

- promised you in marriage to one husband that I might present you as a chaste virgin to the Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:2)
- Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is stumbled, and I am not incensed? (2 Corinthians 11:29)
 - As a **fine soldier** of Christ Jesus take your part in suffering evil. (2 Timothy 2:3)
 - No man serving as a **soldier** involves himself in the commercial businesses of life, in order, that he may gain the approval of the one who enrolled him as a **soldier**. (2 Timothy 2:4)

•• God's Material Support Of The Christian

- In the **warfare** of the Christian, God views the Christian as His soldier and, therefore, provides him with the necessary material things. The apostle argues, with regard to the authority of one serving as a minister to others.
- Who is it that ever serves as a **soldier** at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who shepherds a flock and does not eat some of the milk of the flock? (1 Corinthians 9:7)

•• Christians And Wars Of The Nations

- Christians have always maintained strict neutrality as to fleshly **warfare** between nations, groups, or factions of any kind. For examples of the attitude of the early Christians in this respect,
- Jesus answered; My kingdom is no part of this world. If my kingdom were part of this world, **my attendants would have fought** that I should not be delivered up to the Jews. But, as it is, my kingdom is not from this source. (John 18:36)
- Actually fornication is reported among you, and such fornication as is not even among the nations, that a wife a certain man has of his father. (1 Corinthians 5:1)
- While God judges those outside? Remove the wicked man from among yourselves. (1 Corinthians 5:13)
- Because we have a wrestling, not against blood and flesh, but

against the governments, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places. (**Ephesians 6:12**)

See Also ARMY (Those Known As Early Christians)

· Other Uses

· In the song of Barak and Deborah, after the victory over the army of Jabin, king of Canaan, a circumstance is recalled that sets forth a principle. They, Israel, proceeded to choose new gods. It was then there was **war** in the gates.

· They proceeded to choose new gods. It was then there was **war in the gates**. A shield could not be seen, nor a lance, among forty thousand in Israel. (**Judges 5:8**)

· As soon as they forsook Yehowah for false worship, trouble came, with the enemy pressing at the very gates of their cities. This is in harmony with the psalmists declaration;

· Unless Yehowah himself builds the house, it is to no avail that its builders have worked hard on it. Unless Yehowah himself guards the city, it is to no avail that the guard has kept awake. (**Psalms 127:1**)

· There is no man having power over the spirit to restrain the spirit, neither is there any power of control in the day of death, nor is there any discharge in the **war**. And wickedness will provide no escape for those indulging in it. (**Ecclesiastes 8:8**)

· Solomon wrote. There is no man having power over the spirit to restrain the spirit, nor is there any discharge in the **war**. In the day of death the dying person cannot restrain the spirit, or force of life, and keep it from returning to God the Giver and Source, so as to live longer.

· Dying human's cannot control the day of death and prevent it from ever reaching them. They cannot, by any human efforts, be discharged from the war that the enemy Death wages against all mankind without exception.

· Sinful man cannot get some other sinful man to substitute for him in death and thus enjoy a furlough from death.

- **Those who are trusting in their means of maintenance, and who keep boasting about the abundance of their riches. (Psalms 49:6)**
- **Not one of them can by any means redeem even a brother, nor give to God a ransom for him. (Psalms 49:7)**
- **And the redemption price of their soul is so precious that it has ceased to time indefinite. (Psalms 49:8)**
- **That he should still live forever and not see the pit. (Psalms 49:9)**
- **Only through Yehowah's undeserved kindness by means of Jesus Christ is relief possible.**
- **To what end? That, just as sin ruled as king with death, likewise also undeserved kindness might rule as king through righteousness with everlasting life in view through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:21)**