

BIBLE TRUTH

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'In the beginning
God created
the heaven and the earth.'

Genesis ch.1 v.1

TO WAR or NOT TO WAR

An address given by Michael Bennett
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The Apostle Paul writes to the Church at Ephesus telling them about the whole armour of God and that they are already spiritually armed.

‘Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, ... And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:’

Ephesians ch.6 vv 11-13 & 17

But what of the nation?

- Were they armed?
- Did they fight?
- Did God sanction it?

Who were the Men of Faith? Hebrews ch.11 is a good place to answer this question but other parts of scripture give us insights also.

1. ‘By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.’ Hebrews ch.11 v.8

Abraham armed men of his own house, he slew four kings & did this for the king of Sodom, see Genesis ch.14 vv 14-17.

2. **Jacob** (Israel) fought.

‘And Israel said unto Joseph, ... Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow.’ Genesis ch.48 vv 21-22

3. **Moses** was a commander of an army.
'And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi: For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.' Exodus ch.17 vv 9-16

4. David as representative of the Israelites, slew Goliath and slew many more enemies of Israel in the course of his career.
'Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.' 1 Samuel ch.17 v.51

5. **In the rebuilding of the temple at Jerusalem,**
'... half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah. They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon. For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me'. Nehemiah ch.4 vv 16-18

Weapons in prophecy

‘Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.’

Isaiah ch.41 vv 15-16

‘Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms;’

Jeremiah ch.51 v.20

When did God fulfil these prophecies? The answer is in the church age. The weapon is not glorious but he who holds it, i.e. God.

‘No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.’

Isaiah ch.54 v.17

So God is in control, even in times of war.

God is a man of war

‘The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.’

Exodus ch.15 v.3

ROUND 1

‘And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.’

Revelation ch.12 vv 7-8

ROUND 2

‘And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ... And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.’

Revelation ch.19 vv 11 & 14

Who should fight ?

It was because the men of Israel would not go to war, that they could not go into the promised land.

‘The LORD your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes; And in the wilderness, where thou hast seen how that the

LORD thy God bare thee, as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went, until ye came into this place. Yet in this thing ye did not believe the LORD your God.’ Deuteronomy ch.1 vv 30-32

Deuteronomy ch.20 defines who can go to war, various people are eliminated until only the brave and suitable ones are left.

What could be?

‘How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?’

Deuteronomy ch.32 v.30

‘And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God’s.’

2 Chronicles ch.20 v.15
