

Warfare in the OT
October 16, 2024

The people of Israel have crossed the Jordan into the promised land and are preparing for battle.

Part I. What did Joshua and the Israelites know about the battles they were about to fight?

1. **WHY** they are going into battle.

a. Genesis 15:1-20

b. Deuteronomy 9:1-6

c. Deuteronomy 18:9-14

2. **HOW** they are to do battle with the nations they encounter in the promised land.

a. Deuteronomy 7:1-11, 17-26

3. **WHAT** will happen to them if they adopt the practices of the people in the promised land.

a. Leviticus 18:1-5, 24-30

4. **WHAT** to expect in the future, as they either obey or disobey God.¹

a. Deuteronomy 28:1-14. What blessings will they experience if they obey?

b. Deuteronomy 28:15-26, 36-37, 45-51. What curses will they experience if they disobey?

HOW would you summarize what Joshua and the Israelites know about their future battles in the Promised Land, at the time of Joshua 5:12?

¹ Deuteronomy 28 outlines the terms of the covenant between God and the people of Israel at Mt. Sinai & later in the plains of Moab before entering the promised land (Deuteronomy 29:1).

Part II. What do we know about warfare in the Bible as we look at the whole biblical narrative?

GOD'S WARFARE AGAINST EVIL² is a biblical theology theme developed throughout the Bible consistent with the self-description of his character in Exodus 34:6-7.

- Phase 1: Old Testament - God Uses Israel to Fight Flesh and Blood Enemies In the Promised Land**
- Texts: Joshua, Judges 2:16-19, 1 Samuel 15, 17
 - In this phase, battles were to follow a specific pattern:
 - Before
 - Inquiry or God's Instructions (Joshua 5:13-15, 1 Sam 23:1-6)
 - Spiritual Preparation (Joshua 5:1-12, 1 Samuel 11-12, Psalm 7)
 - Offering of Sacrifices (1 Samuel 13)
 - During
 - The march into battle is a religious procession led by priests with the Ark & trumpets (Numbers 2-3, 10:1-10, 2 Chronicles 20:20-30, Psalm 91).
 - The numbers of troops and quality of weapons don't matter (Judges 6-7, 1 Sam 17)
 - After
 - Songs of Praise (Exodus 15, Judges 5, Psalm 18, 24, 98)
 - Devote to Destruction - *Herem* (Deuteronomy 7, Joshua, 1 Samuel 15)
- Phase 2: Old Testament - God Fights Israel (Note: Phase 1 & Phase 2 Overlap)**
- Texts: Joshua 7, Judges 2:11-15, 1 Samuel 4, Jeremiah 7, Ezekiel 9-11, Lamentations 2
- Phase 3: Old Testament Post - Exilic & Intertestamental Period - God the Warrior Will Come in the Future to Fight our Oppressors**
- Texts: Daniel 7, Zechariah 14, Malachi 4
- Phase 4: New Testament - Jesus the Warrior Fights Spiritual Powers and Authorities**
- Texts: Matthew 3:1-12, Matthew 11:1-6 || Luke 3:1-15, Luke 7:18-30; Colossians 2:13-15, Ephesians 4:8, Ephesians 6:10-20, 2 Corinthians 10:1-6
- Phase 5: New Testament - Jesus Will Come Again to Defeat Human and Spiritual Enemies**
- Texts: Matthew 24:1-31, Mark 13:1-27, Luke 21:5-29, Revelation 19:11-21

² This Biblical Theology framework was adapted from a lecture series presented by Tremper Longman at Regent College in 2017, and later developed into a book entitled: *Confronting Old Testament Controversies: Pressing Questions about Evolution, Sexuality, History, and Violence*. Published by Baker Books in 2019.