

THE WARRIORS PRAYER

Exodus 15:3

The Lord is a warrior;
yes, the Lord is his name!

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Forward

The Warriors Prayer

Dear Lord in the battle that goes on through life.

I ask but a field that is fair.

A chance that is equal to all in the stride.

Of courage and heartache to bear.

And if I should win, let it be by the code

With my faith and honor held high

And if I should loose, let me stand by the road

And cheer as the winners go by.

And let me not cherish a snarl, nor sneer,

Nor play any sniveling part.

But teach me to stand by the side of the road.

And cheer as the winners go by.

When I was growing up in a small house on a farm, the above poem hung on our wall in a frame just right of our kerosene-heating stove. I memorized it and have remembered it for the past 70 years. It has affected my thinking concerning achievement and the place of a warrior.

Be blessed as you consider those who were called warriors in the word

Chapter 1



The Lord is a warrior

Exodus 15:3

The Lord is a man of war: the Lord is his name.

Six hundred Egyptian war chariots were bearing down on the helpless Israelites, who were trapped between the mountains and the sea.

War chariots each carried two people—one to drive and one to fight. These chariots were made of a wood or leather cab placed over two wheels, and horses pulled them. These were the armored tanks of Bible times. But even their power was no match for God, who destroyed both the chariots and their soldiers

The Lord is the king of glory

Psalm 24:8

Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, invincible in battle.

Who is this King of glory? The King of glory, identified also as the Lord of hosts, or the commander of heaven's armies, is the Messiah himself, eternal, holy, and mighty.

This psalm is not only a battle cry for the church; it also looks forward to Christ's future entry into the new Jerusalem to reign forever (Rev. 19:11-21).

This psalm, often set to music, was probably used in corporate worship. It may have been re-enacted many times at the temple.

The people outside would call out to the temple gates to open up and let the King of glory in. From inside, the priests or another group would ask, "Who is this King of glory?"

Outside, the people would respond in unison, "The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle," proclaiming his great power and strength.

The exchange was then repeated (Psalm 24:9-10), and the temple gates would swing open, symbolizing the people's desire to have God's presence among them. This would have been an important lesson for children who were participating.

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The Lord will go forth like a warrior

Isaiah 42:13

The Lord will march forth like a mighty man; he will come out like a warrior, full of fury. He will shout his thundering battle cry, and he will crush all his enemies.

Look at all the Lord will do for us and through us (Isaiah 42:6-9)! Majestic works prompt majestic responses. Do you really appreciate the good that God does for you and through you? If so, let your praise to him reflect how you really feel.

How could Israel and Judah be God’s servants and yet be so blind? How could they be so close to God and see so little? Jesus condemned the religious leaders of his day for the same disregard of God (John 9:39-41). Yet do we not fail in the same way?

Sometimes partial blindness—seeing but not understanding, or knowing what is right but not doing it—can be worse than not seeing at all.

The Lord is with me.

Jeremiah 20:11

But the LORD is with me like a dread champion;
Therefore my persecutors will stumble and not prevail they will be utterly ashamed, because they have failed, with an everlasting disgrace that will not be forgotten.

Jeremiah cried out in despair mixed with praise, unburdening his heart to God. He had faithfully proclaimed God's word and had received nothing in return but persecution and sorrow. Yet when he withheld God's word for a while, it became fire in his bones until he could hold it back no longer.

When God's living message of forgiveness becomes fire in your bones, you also will feel compelled to share it with others, regardless of the results.

All will be brought safely to their inheritance.

Numbers 32:17 Then we will arm ourselves and lead our fellow Israelites into battle until we have brought them safely to their inheritance. Meanwhile, our families will stay in the fortified cities we build here, so they will be safe from any attacks by the local people.

A simple pen for livestock had four roughly built stone walls, high enough to keep wild animals out. Sometimes the top of the wall was lined with thorns to further discourage predators and thieves.

The pen's single entrance made it easier for a shepherd to guard his flock. Often several shepherds used a single pen and took turns guarding the entrance. Mingling the animals was no problem since each flock responded readily to its own shepherd's voice.

The three tribes who chose to remain east of the Jordan River wanted to build pens to protect their flocks and cities to protect their families before the men crossed the river to help the rest of the tribes conquer the Promised Land.

The land on the east side of the Jordan had been conquered. The hard work was done by all of the tribes together. But the tribes of Reuben and Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh did not stop after their land was cleared. They promised to keep working with the others until everyone's land was conquered.

After others have helped you, do you make excuses to escape helping them? Finish the whole job, even those parts that may not benefit you directly.

Warriors will trample their enemies in the mud.

Zechariah 10:5-12

They will be like mighty warriors in battle, trampling their enemies in the mud under their feet. Since the Lord is with them as they fight, they will overthrow even the horsemen of the enemy.

"I will strengthen Judah and save Israel; I will reestablish them because I love them. It will be as though I had never rejected them, for I am the Lord their God, who will hear their cries.

The people of Israel will become like mighty warriors, and their hearts will be happy as if by wine. Their children, too, will see it all and be glad; their hearts will rejoice in the Lord.

When I whistle to them, they will come running, for I have redeemed them. From the few that are left, their population will grow again to its former size.

Though I have scattered them like seeds among the nations, still they will remember me in distant lands. With their children, they will survive and come home again to Israel.

I will bring them back from Egypt and Assyria and resettle them in Gilead and Lebanon. There won't be enough room for them all!

They will pass safely through the sea of distress, for the waves of the sea will be held back. And the waters of the Nile will become dry. The pride of Assyria will be crushed, and the rule of Egypt will end.

I will make my people strong in my power, and they will go wherever they wish by my authority. I, the Lord, have spoken!"

The “house of Judah” refers to the southern kingdom, and the “house of Joseph” refers to the northern kingdom. Ephraim, the leading tribe of the northern kingdom, was the son of Joseph.

One day God will unite all his people. This verse tells about God’s reuniting of the Jews (see also Jeremiah 31:10). This was a startling idea: the people of the northern kingdom of Israel were so completely absorbed into other cultures after their captivity in 722 B.C. that a regathering could not be done by human means, but only by God.

God promises to strengthen his people. When we stay closely connected to God, his Spirit will enable us to do his will, despite the obstacles. When we stray away from God, we will be cut off from our power source.

All were skilled warriors

1 Chronicles 8:40

The sons of Ulam were all skilled warriors and expert archers. They had many sons and grandsons—150 in all. All these were descendants of Benjamin.

David was a stronghold in the wilderness.

1 Chronicles 12:8

Some brave and experienced warriors from the tribe of Gad also defected to David while he was at the stronghold in the wilderness. They

were expert with both shield and spear, as fierce as lions and as swift as deer on the mountains.

While the men of Benjamin were expert archers and slingers, the warriors of Gad were experts with the shield and spear. Israelite spears had wood shafts and spearheads of bone or stone and were often thrown through the air toward their mark.

Philistine spears had bronze shafts and iron spearheads, and their shields were made of wood and overlaid with leather. Large shields were often carried by an armor-bearer, whose main task was to protect the warrior.

Chapter 2



All warriors were brave and able.

1 Chronicles 12:21

They helped David chase down bands of raiders, for they were all brave and able warriors who became commanders in his army.

David “had a great army, like the army of God.” Men were drawn to David by the reputation of his great warriors, the news of their victories, and their desire to see God’s will done in making David king. People are often drawn to a great cause and the brave, determined people who support it.

As believers, we have the greatest cause—the salvation of mankind. If we are brave, determined, and faithful, others will be drawn to work with us.

Army composed of courageous men

2 Chronicles 14:8

King Asa had an army of 300,000 warriors from the tribe of Judah, armed with large shields and spears. He also had an army of 280,000 warriors from the tribe of Benjamin, armed with small shields and bows. Both armies were composed of courageous fighting men.

Jehozabad commanded many

2 Chronicles 17:18

Next in command was Jehozabad, who commanded 180,000-armed men.

The people of Judah were Biblically illiterate. They had never taken time to listen to and discuss God's law and understand how it could change them.

Jehoshaphat realized that knowing God's commands was the first step to getting people to live as they should, so he initiated a nationwide religious education program. He reversed the religious decline that had occurred at the end of Asa's reign by putting God first in the people's minds and instilling in them a sense of commitment and mission.

Because of this action, the nation began to follow God. Churches and Christian schools today need solid Christian education programs.

Exposure to good Bible teaching through church school, church, Bible study, and personal and family devotions is essential for living as God intended.

Army will well trained

2 Chronicles 25:5

Another thing Amaziah did was to organize the army, assigning leaders to each clan from Judah and Benjamin. Then he took a census and found that he had an army of 300,000 men twenty years old and older, all trained in the use of spear and shield.

Amaziah did what was right on the outside, but inside he often resented what he had to do. His obedience was at best halfhearted. When the prophet promised God's deliverance, Amaziah first complained about the money that had been lost (2 Chron. 25:9). And he valued military success more than God's will. We must search our own hearts and root out any resistance to obeying God. Grudging compliance is not true obedience.

Left-handed warriors will not miss

Judges 20:16

Seven hundred of Benjamin's warriors were left-handed, each of who could sling a rock and hit a target within a hairsbreadth, without missing.

Chapter 3



Troops were prepared to assist the king

2 Chronicles 26:13

The army consisted of 307,500 men, all elite troops. They were prepared to assist the king against any enemy.

After God gave Uzziah great prosperity and power, he became proud and corrupt. It is true that “pride goes before destruction” (Proverbs 16:18).

If God has given you wealth, influence, popularity, and power, be thankful, but be careful. God hates pride.

While it is normal to feel elation when we accomplish something, it is wrong to be disdainful of God or to look down on others.

Check your attitudes and remember to give God the credit for what you have. Use your gifts in ways that please him.

Commander of Judah, the tenth division

1 Chronicles 27:13

Maharai, a descendant of Zerah from Netophah, was commander of the tenth division, which was on duty during the tenth month. There were twenty-four thousand troops in his division.

Warriors will stumble and fall

Jeremiah 46:12

The nations have heard of your shame. The earth is filled with your cries of despair. Your mightiest warriors will stumble across each other and fall together."

The farther we drift from God, the more confused our thinking becomes. Whatever spiritual life was left in the Israelites when they went to Egypt was lost as they sank into the depths of idolatry. (For more information on the "Queen of Heaven," see the note on ▪Jeremiah 7:18.)

The escape to Egypt had brought a change in their pagan worship habits, and they blamed their troubles on their neglect of their idols.

But idol worship had started all their problems in the first place. The people refused to recognize the true source of their problems—departure from God's leading. When calamity forces you to examine your life, take a close look at God's instructions for you.

Chapter 4



Weapons will be dropped

Amos 2:16

On that day, the most courageous of your fighting men will drop their weapons and run for their lives. I, the Lord, have spoken!"

"That day" refers to when Assyria would attack Israel, destroy Samaria, and take the people captive (722 B.C.). This military defeat came only a few decades after this pronouncement.

Television and movies are filled with images of people who seem to have no fear. Many today have modeled their lives after these images—they want to be tough.

But God is not impressed with bravado. He says that even the toughest people will run in fear when God's judgment comes.

Do you know people who think they can make it through life without God? Don't be swayed by their self-assured rhetoric. Recognize that God fears no one, and one day all people will fear him.

The angel of the Lord helps

Judges 6:11

Then the angel of the Lord came and sat beneath the oak tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash had been threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites.

The Old appeared in each case. The angel mentioned here appears to be separate from God in one place (Judges 6:12) and yet the same as God in another place (Judges 6:14).

This has led some to believe that the angel was a special appearance of Jesus Christ prior to his mission on earth as recorded in the New Testament. It is also possible that as a special messenger from God, the angel had authority to speak for God. In either case, God sent a special messenger to deliver an important message to Gideon.

Threshing was the process of separating the grains of wheat from the useless outer shell called chaff. This was normally done in a large area, often on a hill, where the wind could blow away the lighter chaff when the farmer tossed the beaten wheat into the air.

If Gideon had done this, however, he would have been an easy target for the bands of raiders who were overrunning the land.

Therefore, he was forced to thresh his wheat in a winepress, a pit that was probably hidden from view and that would not be suspected as a place to find a farmer's crops.

Testament records several appearances of the angel of the Lord: Genesis 16:7; Genesis 22:11; Genesis 31:11; Exodus 3:2; Exodus 14:19; Judges 2:1; Judges 13:3; Zech. 3:1-6. It is not known whether the same angel

David sends Israelites into battle

2 Samuel 10:7

When David heard about this, he sent Joab and the entire Israelite army to fight them.

There must be a balance in life between our actions and our faith in God. David said, “Let us fight bravely.” In other words, they should do what they could, using their minds to figure out the best techniques and using their resources.

But he also said, “The LORD will do what is good in his sight.” He knew that the outcome was in God’s hands. We should use our minds and our resources to obey God, while at the same time trusting God for the outcome.

Chapter 5



The Lord is invincible in battle.

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Yet do we not fail in the same way? Sometimes partial blindness—seeing but not understanding, or knowing what is right but not doing it—can be worse than not seeing at all.

The Lord will perfect your splendor

Ezekiel 27:11

Men from Arvad and from Helech stood on your walls as sentinels. Your towers were manned by men from Gammad. Their shields hung on your walls, perfecting your splendor.

No splendor of the world can compare to the splendor of God.

The Lord stands beside me like a great warrior

Jeremiah 20:11

But the Lord stands beside me like a great warrior. Before him they will stumble. They cannot defeat me. They will be shamed and thoroughly humiliated. Their dishonor will never be forgotten.

Jeremiah cried out in despair mixed with praise, unburdening his heart to God. He had faithfully proclaimed God's word and had received nothing in return but persecution and sorrow.

Yet when he withheld God's word for a while, it became fire in his bones until he could hold it back no longer.

When God's living message of forgiveness becomes fire in your bones, you also will feel compelled to share it with others, regardless of the results.

Please pray this Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation
Holy Bible: New Living Bible translation.

Additional comments and charts are taken from:

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