

God Fights for Us

The Lord Gives Us Victory Against Our Enemies

Thesis: The Lord is with us and fights for us as we face enemies like fear, despair, sickness, oppression, discouragement, demonic opposition, etc. The Lord gives us victory against our enemies.

Text: Deuteronomy 20:1-4

When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt, will be with you. 2 When you are about to go into battle, the priest shall come forward and address the army. 3 He shall say: "Hear, O Israel, today you are going into battle against your enemies. Do not be fainthearted or afraid; do not be terrified or give way to panic before them. 4 For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory" (Deuteronomy 20:1-4).

1. **The Lord has raised us up to be soldiers, warriors, and champions for his kingdom purposes in the earth.**
 - a. *When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours... (Deuteronomy 20:1a).*
 - b. We are part of **the willing army of the Lord for the sake of Christ** (Psalm 110:3).
 - i. *The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies. Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth (Psalm 110:1-3).*
 - c. We are part of **the advancing army of the Lord by the commission of Christ** (Matthew 16:18).
 - i. *When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" 14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my*

church, and the gates of Hades will not [withstand] it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:13-19).

- d. We are enlisted in the army of the Lord as **soldiers in Christ** (2 Timothy 2:3-4).
 - i. *Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer (2 Timothy 2:3-4).*
 - e. **We fight the good fight of faith because of Christ** (1 Timothy 6:12).
 - f. We are **overcomers in Christ** (1 John 5:4-5).
 - i. *...for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God (1 John 5:4-5).*
 - g. The Lord has raised us up to be soldiers, warriors, and champions for his kingdom purposes in the earth.
2. **The Lord our God is our redeemer, deliverer, and champion who goes with us.**
- a. *because the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt, will be with you... (Deuteronomy 20:1b).*
 - b. **Our God has heard our cry in our pain, suffering, brokenness, and bondage in this world and brought us into new life.**
 - i. *When you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, 2 take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name 3 and say to the priest in office at the time, “I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land the LORD swore to our forefathers to give us.” 4 The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God. 5 Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: “My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. 6 But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, putting us to hard labor. 7 Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. 8 So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders. 9 He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and*

honey; 10 and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me" (Deuteronomy 26:1-10).

- c. **Our God has delivered us from darkness into light, from slavery into freedom, from outsiders into sons and daughters of God Most High.**
 - i. *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:13-14 ESV).*
 - d. **Our God has defeated and made a mockery of the principalities, powers, world forces of darkness, and gods of this world.**
 - i. *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross (Colossians 2:13-15).*
 - e. **The Lord has proved himself over and over and over again in our lives and on our behalf.**
 - i. That is why **gratitude** is so important, as Pastor Steve shared with us last Sunday.
 - f. **The Lord invites us to partner with him on his mission in our spheres of influence together with others.**
 - i. *When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt, will be with you (Deuteronomy 20:1).*
 - g. The Lord our God is our redeemer, deliverer, and champion who goes with us.
3. **The Lord calls his priests to the frontlines of the battle through casting vision, bold declaration, and prayer.**
- a. *When you are about to go into battle, the priest shall come forward and address the army. He shall say: "Hear, O Israel, today you are going into battle against your enemies. Do not be fainthearted or afraid; do not be terrified or give way to panic before them. 4 For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory" (Deuteronomy 20:2-4).*
 - b. **We know from 1 Peter 2:9-10 and Revelation 5:10 that we are priests and kings who serve our God.**
 - i. *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God;*

once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy (1 Peter 2:9-10).

- ii. *And when he had taken it [the scroll], the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints [priestly ministry of worship and prayer]. 9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth" (Revelation 5:8-10).*
- c. **A priest does 2 things:**
 - i. Represents God to people (Matthew 6:10).
 - ii. Represents people to God (Hebrews 4:6).
- d. **Here is our priestly ministry: we stand, serve, minister, and burn before our God.**
 - i. *Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah. 2 He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. 3 In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the LORD and repaired them. 4 He brought in the priests and the Levites, assembled them in the square on the east side 5 and said: "Listen to me, Levites! Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the LORD, the God of your fathers. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary. 6 Our fathers were unfaithful; they did evil in the eyes of the LORD our God and forsook him. They turned their faces away from the LORD's dwelling place and turned their backs on him. 7 They also shut the doors of the portico and put out the lamps. They did not burn incense or present any burnt offerings at the sanctuary to the God of Israel. 8 Therefore, the anger of the LORD has fallen on Judah and Jerusalem; he has made them an object of dread and horror and scorn, as you can see with your own eyes. 9 This is why our fathers have fallen by the sword and why our sons and daughters and our wives are in captivity. 10 Now I intend to make a covenant with the LORD, the God of Israel, so that his fierce anger will turn away from us. 11 My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before him and serve him, to minister before him and to burn incense" (2 Chronicles 29:1-11).*

- ii. **As sons and daughters, God calls us to our priestly ministry:**
 1. **To stand** before him (Romans 12:1)
 2. **To serve** him (in worship and prayer; to minister to him)
 3. **To minister** before him (to partner with him and to carry out his desires, purposes, and commands in the earth)
 4. **To burn** (with passion and fiery love for our God and Bridegroom King)
- e. The Lord calls his priests to the frontlines of the battle.
4. **The Lord is with us and fights for us as we face enemies like fear, despair, sickness, oppression, discouragement, demonic opposition, etc.**
 - a. *When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt, will be with you. 2 When you are about to go into battle, the priest shall come forward and address the army. 3 He shall say: "Hear, O Israel, today you are going into battle against your enemies. Do not be fainthearted or afraid; do not be terrified or give way to panic before them. 4 For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory" (Deuteronomy 20:1-4).*
 - i. The Lord is your God: **personal** (Matthew 4:19; John 15:5).
 - ii. The Lord goes with you: **present** (Matthew 28:20). *"I will never forsake you or abandon you" (Deuteronomy 31:6).*
 - iii. The Lord fights for you: **powerful** (Colossians 2:13-15; Revelation 1:18 *keys of death and hell*).
 - iv. The Lord gives you victory: **preeminent, victorious champion**. *But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57).*
 - b. **This is who our God is.**
 - i. *My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the king; my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer. 2 You are the most excellent of men and your lips have been anointed with grace, since God has blessed you forever. 3 Gird your sword upon your side, O mighty one; clothe yourself with splendor and majesty. 4 In your majesty ride forth victoriously in behalf of truth, humility and righteousness; let your right hand display awesome deeds (Psalm 45:1-4).*
 - ii. *"Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High, 15 and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me" (Psalm 50:14-15).*
 - iii. *"On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. 17 The LORD your God is with you,*

he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing" (Zephania 3:16-17).

1. 19 "At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you; I will rescue the lame and gather those who have been scattered. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they were put to shame. 20 At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD (Zephaniah 3:19-20).
- c. The Lord is with us and fights for us as we face enemies like fear, despair, sickness, oppression, discouragement, demonic opposition, etc.

Summary:

1. The Lord has raised us up to be soldiers, warriors, and champions for his kingdom purposes in the earth.
 - a. In Christ we are more than conquerors.
 - b. In Christ we are overcomers.
2. The Lord our God is our redeemer, deliverer, and champion who goes with us.
 - a. "I will be with you," says the Lord.
 - b. Say to the people: This is your God.
3. The Lord calls his priests to the frontlines of the battle.
 - a. Because of Christ we are priests and kings who serve our God.
 - b. Because of Christ we fight the good fight of faith.
4. The Lord is with us and fights for us as we face enemies like fear, despair, sickness, oppression, discouragement, demonic opposition, etc.
 - a. The Lord gives us victory against our enemies.
 - b. Praise the name of the Lord who leads us in triumph.
 - c. So, we join him in the fight and in the expansion of the kingdom of God because of Christ, with Christ, and for Christ.

Ministry Time: