

# LET GOD ARISE!

## *The Battle Belongs to the Lord* *Prayer Guide #2*

*Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis*



### **Captain of the Lord's Army**

Joshua 5.13-15

### **A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

*Martin Luther*

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
Were not the right man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

And tho' this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph thro' us.  
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure:  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours thro' Him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still:  
His kingdom is forever.

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### **The Commander of the Army of the Lord fights on behalf of his people**

Josh. 5.13-15 - When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" [14] And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" [15] And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Exod. 23.20-22 - Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. [21] Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him. [22] But if you carefully obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

### **The battle belongs to the Lord—he fights to deliver his people**

Exod. 14.13-14 - And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. [14] The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

Num. 14.9 - Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them.

2 Kings 6.16 - He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."



*Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV)*

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2 Chron. 20.15 - And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's.'"

2 Chron. 20.17 - You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you.

Ps. 27.1-2 - The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? [2] When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

Ps. 46.1-3 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. [2] Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, [3] though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah

Isa. 26.3 - You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Isa. 30.15 - For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling.

Isa. 35.4 - Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."



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Isa. 41.10-14 - fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. [11] Behold, all who are incensed against you shall be put to shame and confounded; those who strive against you shall be as nothing and shall perish. [12] You shall seek those who contend with you, but you shall not find them; those who war against you shall be as nothing at all. [13] For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you." [14] Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I am the one who helps you, declares the Lord; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

### **God accompanies his own into the battle**

Deut. 20.1-4 - When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them, for the Lord your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. [2] And when you draw near to the battle, the priest shall come forward and speak to the people [3] and shall say to them, "Hear, O Israel, today you are drawing near for battle against your enemies: let not your heart faint. Do not fear or panic or be in dread of them, [4] for the Lord your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory."

### **God assures us that the victory is ours, for he is with us**

Deut. 1.30 - The Lord your God who goes before you will himself fight for you, just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes, [31] and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the Lord your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way that you went until you came to this place.

Deut. 3.21-22 - And I commanded Joshua at that time, "Your eyes have seen all that the Lord your God has done to these two kings. So will the Lord do to all the kingdoms into which you are crossing. [22] You shall not fear them, for it is the Lord your God who fights for you."



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Deut. 11.25 - No one shall be able to stand against you. The Lord your God will lay the fear of you and the dread of you on all the land that you shall tread, as he promised you.

Deut. 32.30 - How could one have chased a thousand, and two have put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had given them up?

Josh. 10.42 - And Joshua captured all these kings and their land at one time, because the Lord God of Israel fought for Israel.

Josh. 23.10 - One man of you puts to flight a thousand, since it is the Lord your God who fights for you, just as he promised you.

2 Chron. 13.12 - Behold, God is with us at our head, and his priests with their battle trumpets to sound the call to battle against you. O sons of Israel, do not fight against the Lord, the God of your fathers, for you cannot succeed.

2 Chron. 32.7-8 - "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are more with us than with him. [8] With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles." And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

Ps. 144.1-2 - Blessed be the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; [2] he is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.

Rom. 8:37 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.



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### **Ultimately, God's forces will defeat his angelic enemies**

Rev. 12.8-11 - but he was defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. [9] And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. [10] And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. [11] And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.”

### **The Messiah's enemies will one day be placed under his feet**

Ps. 110.1-3 - The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.” [2] The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies! [3] Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.

Matt. 22.41-45 - Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, [42] saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” [43] He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, [44] ‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet’? [45] If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?”

Acts 2.34-36 - For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, [35] until I make your enemies your footstool.” [36] Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.



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1 Cor. 15.25 - For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

**God fights for his people because he loves them, and will not violate his promise to Abraham and David**

Deut. 7.8-9 - but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. [9] Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

Ps. 89.34 - I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips.

Ps. 105.8 - He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

Ps. 106.45 - For their sake he remembered his covenant, and relented according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

Dan. 9.4 - I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments.”

Lam. 5.19-21 - But you, O Lord, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations. [20] Why do you forget us forever, why do you forsake us for so many days? [21] Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored! Renew our days as of old.

Exod. 34.6 - The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”



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Lev. 26.44-45 - Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not spurn them, neither will I abhor them so as to destroy them utterly and break my covenant with them, for I am the Lord their God. [45] But I will for their sake remember the covenant with their forefathers, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the Lord.

Deut. 4.31 - For the Lord your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.

Deut. 7.8-9 - but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. [9] Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

Deut. 9.5 - Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the Lord your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may confirm the word that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

### **Since God fights for us, we can count on his word**

Mic. 7.20 - You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

Luke 1.68-70 - Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people [69] and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, [70] as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old.



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Rom. 11.1-2 - I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. [2] God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel?

2 Cor. 1.20 - For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

1 Thess. 5.24 - He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

2 Tim. 2.19 - But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

Heb. 10.22-23 - let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. [23] Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

1 John 1.9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Rev. 15.3 - And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! ■

**GOD NEVER** backs down from a fight.

The entirety of Scripture outlines God's commitment to end the chaos and evil which tragically occurred when our first human parents rebelled against



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his good creation and will. From the Garden of God to the City of Gold, the Bible tells the tale that God is waging war against the maniacal forces that ravage the earth, deceive the nations, and fuel the viciousness that has caused such war, famine, oppression, and misery throughout human history. God is a warrior. Like the truth affirmed in the song of Moses and the people of God after the remarkable victory at the Red Sea:

*Exod. 15.1-3 - Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. [2] The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. [3] The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name."*

Truly, the Lord is a man of war. It is because of his intent to end war and pain, his commitment to overcome the enemies which have thrown his beautiful creation into chaos, and his resolve to place all his enemies under the feet of his Christ that we have hope.

Yes, God never backs down from a fight.

This is why the episode of the Commander of the Army of the Lord is so important for us who labor to make Jesus king in the unreached neighborhoods of our urban centers. The fight we wage, which at times seems completely overwhelming and even futile to engage, is a fight of faith, of hope, of courage and confidence. Does God know of the oppression of so many millions who struggle and are dying in the cities of the world? Is God able to confront the powers which cause such misery in the lives of so many, and bring deliverance to hundreds of thousands of households who need his love and grace? Does God really care about the lost millions who seem a universe apart from his love and power, who suffer every day from the tyranny of sin and the enemy?



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The story of Joshua and the Commander of the Lord's army makes it plain.

Joshua was close by Jericho, in the close vicinity of the place he would wage war soon. Maybe he was secretly spying out the city's layout and fortifications, or spending some time alone strategizing how he might best approach his siege, or rally his troops, or stand up to his own fears and doubts.

Whatever the occasion, Joshua was beside Jericho right before the battle, hours away from engagement with the enemies of God. There, Joshua encountered what appeared to him as a man with a sword drawn. When Joshua asked whether he was with Israel or its adversaries, the man replied: "No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come" (Josh. 5.14). An amazing answer! This great warrior declared that he represented a Campaign larger than that of the Israelites or Canaanites; rather, he followed no one's orders but the Lord's.

With this answer, Joshua realized that this Someone was worthy of signal honor, the kind that only God deserves. Joshua, fell on his face to the ground, gave him heartfelt (and no doubt, grateful) worship and asked, "What does my lord say to his servant?" The Commander of the Lord's Army answered: "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And, of course, Joshua did so. An amazing encounter before a remarkable victory!

Scholars rightly surmise that this is a Christophany, a manifestation of the Son of God. He received worship, and later is associated with the divine name (Josh. 6.2). This manifestation of the Son was as a warrior, ready for battle, a man of war who greets the leader of God's people with the assurance that, before their fight begins, God had sent his own Commander to lead the charge. God never abandons his own, never runs away from his foes, and stands ready to deliver and defend his own.



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This entire year we will explore together the truths of Scripture related to our theme, “The Battle Belongs to the Lord.” God has purposed to restore his reign in the world, to save out of humanity a remnant that will belong to him and serve him forever. Through his risen, exalted Christ, he will destroy every vestige of evil, every phenomena of cruelty and injustice, end all sorrow and pain, restore creation, and establish a Kingdom which will never falter. This is his will, this is his heart. Nothing and noone can defy the Son of God; God’s will certainly shall be fulfilled, for the risen Christ is sworn to bring his reign to completion.

Why can be confident that our ministry to prophesy deliverance in Jesus’ name to the dying in the cities is neither futile nor wasted? Because God does not back away from a fight. He is a man of war, a fighter; his commander greets his warriors with the sword already drawn. Before the battle begins, he sends his representatives to ensure its outcome. He is a man of war.

Let our prayers and intercessions be soaked in this realization this month. Nothing and noone can resist the power about to transform all things, that divine power which will end oppression, destroy sin and evil, and restore creation. Let us, like Joshua, worship him whose presence is among us, and who will lead this final charge through the nations to deliver souls and heal families and plant new outposts of God’s reign in the neediest communities on earth. Above all, let us gain new courage as we realize that the battle is not ours; ultimately, in every fight that counts, the battle belongs to the Lord.

And, he never backs away from a fight. ■



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### The Season of Epiphany: The Commander of the Lord's Army

*Rev. 19.11-16 - Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. [12] His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. [13] He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. [14] And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. [15] From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. [16] On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.*

### Biblical Principle of the Month

During this Season of Epiphany as we remember Christ's revelation through his incarnation in the world, let us affirm God's determination to fight to destroy evil and to restore creation. Christ's coming to earth constitutes a divine invasion, the interposition of the very powers of heaven in the domain of darkness. Having died and risen, and now exalted and glorified at the Father's right hand, soon the Lord Jesus will return in glory to complete his work of establishing the reign of God in the earth. As Commander of the Army of the Lord and Head of the Church, he leads his own into battle and ensures their victory. The battle belongs to him. Let us follow him with courage and engage the enemy, for God has given us the victory in Christ!

*Acts 2.34-36 - For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, [35] until I make your enemies your footstool.' [36] Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."*



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*Ps. 144.1-2 - Blessed be the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; [2] he is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.*

**Example of Submitting to God's Commander and Captain: Joshua**

*Josh. 5.13-15 - When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" [14] And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" [15] And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.*



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