

# יהוה

## “YHWH-‘iysh Milchaamaah: The Lord Is a Man of War”

### Introduction

*The last redemptive name we examined was YHWH-Shalom, the Lord is Peace. I think it fitting that we move from this basic principle of fellowship with our Heavenly Father (being at peace with Him) to an understanding of Him as a man of war.*

### PATRIOT ANALOGY

#### I. The Lord Is a Man of War

##### 1. The Man of War

Ex 15:1-3

- 1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.
- 2 The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.
- 3 **The LORD is a man of war:** the LORD is his name. KJV

Isa 42:10-13

- 10 Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.
- 11 Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar doth inhabit: let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains.
- 12 Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands.
- 13 The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, **he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war:** he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies. KJV

*The Lord is a man of war is the first of the warfare redemptive names that we will be studying. In this group are also “The Lord, Jealous is His name” and “The Lord our Banner.”*

Ex 17:15-16

- 15 Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner.
- 16 He said, "For hands were lifted up to the throne of the LORD. **The LORD will be at war** against the Amalekites from generation to generation." NIV

*Clearly our Lord is a warrior and does not shrink back from the battle.*

## 2. Battle Imagery

Isa 63:1-6

- 1 Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save."
- 2 Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress?
- 3 "I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; **their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing.**
- 4 For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and the year of my redemption has come.
- 5 I looked, but there was no one to help, I was appalled that no one gave support; so my own arm worked salvation for me, and my own wrath sustained me.
- 6 I trampled the nations in my anger; in my wrath I made them drunk and poured their blood on the ground." NIV

Deut 32:39-43

- 39 "See now that I myself am He! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand.
- 40 I lift my hand to heaven and declare: As surely as I live forever,
- 41 when I sharpen my flashing sword and my hand grasps it in judgment, I will take vengeance on my adversaries and repay those who hate me.
- 42 **I will make my arrows drunk with blood,** while my sword devours flesh: the blood of the slain and the captives, the heads of the enemy leaders."
- 43 Rejoice, O nations, with his people, for he will avenge the blood of his servants; he will take vengeance on his enemies and make atonement for his land and people. NIV

Rev 19:11-16

- 11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.
- 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.
- 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.
- 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
- 15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." **He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.**
- 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. NIV

*The above are simply samples of the battle imagery used to describe the Lord in His justice, vengeance, and warfare. Many are content to worship the God of peace and*

*are uncomfortable with these Scriptural realities. But as we shall see, without a successful war there is no peace.*

### 3. The Nature of the Battle

John 18:33-37

33 Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

34 "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

35 "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." NIV

*The battle is the result of a kingdom clash.*

Luke 11:17-20

17 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall.

18 **If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand?** I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebub.

19 Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges.

20 But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you. NIV

Acts 26:17-18

17 I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them

18 to open their eyes and turn them **from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God**, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' NIV

*The devil is a real enemy and the battle is a real battle. But it is a spiritual battle.*

2 Cor 10:3-5 NIV

3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.

4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Eph 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. NIV

*We are not fighting flesh and blood. We need to understand that all the battles in the Old Testament are types of the spiritual battle we are engaged in today. As we go through the following sections of Scripture, we need to keep this in mind.*

## II. Conducting the Battle

### 1. Qualifications for Soldering

#### A. No fear or presumption

Deut 20:8

Then the officers shall add, "Is any man afraid or fainthearted? Let him go home so that his brothers will not become disheartened too." NIV

Judg 7:2-3

2 The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her,

3 announce now to the people, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.'" So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained. NIV

Deut 1:41-45

41 Then ye answered and said unto me, We have sinned against the LORD, we will go up and fight, according to all that the LORD our God commanded us. And when ye had girded on every man his weapons of war, ye were ready to go up into the hill.

42 And the LORD said unto me, Say unto them, Go not up, neither fight; for I am not among you; lest ye be smitten before your enemies.

43 So I spake unto you; and ye would not hear, but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD, and went presumptuously up into the hill.

44 And the Amorites, which dwelt in that mountain, came out against you, and chased you, as bees do, and destroyed you in Seir, even unto Hormah.

45 And ye returned and wept before the LORD; but the LORD would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear unto you. KJV

#### B. The necessity of circumcision

Josh 5:5-9

5 All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the desert during the journey from Egypt had not.

6 The Israelites had moved about in the desert forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the LORD. For the LORD had sworn to them that they would not see the land

that he had solemnly promised their fathers to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey.

7 So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way.

8 And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed.

9 Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So the place has been called Gilgal to this day. NIV

*Those twenty and under had not been circumcised in the wilderness. All the men of war who had been disobedient to the Lord in not possessing the land died in the wilderness. The new generation of warriors needed to be circumcised before occupying the land. In other words, they had to enter into covenant with the Lord for the Lord to fight their battles. Circumcision is the putting off of the flesh and is done by the Spirit of God.*

Rom 2:29

No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God. NIV

*The result of this circumcision is fruitfulness.*

Josh 5:10-12

10 And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.

11 And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day.

12 And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; **but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.** KJV

C. Exemptions from battle – Deut 20:5-7

Deut 20:5-7

5 The officers shall say to the army: "Has anyone built a new house and not dedicated it? Let him go home, or he may die in battle and someone else may dedicate it.

6 Has anyone planted a vineyard and not begun to enjoy it? Let him go home, or he may die in battle and someone else enjoy it.

7 Has anyone become pledged to a woman and not married her? Let him go home, or he may die in battle and someone else marry her." NIV

i. Undedicated house – verse 5

*According to Josephus, this took a year. The lesson we draw from this is that if we need to have our household dedicated to be effective in battle.*

ii. A new vineyard – verse 6

Lev 19:23-25

23 When you come into the land, and have planted all kinds of trees for food, then you shall count their fruit as uncircumcised. three years it shall be as uncircumcised to you. It shall not be eaten.

24 But in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy, a praise to the LORD.

25 And in the fifth year you may eat its fruit, that it may yield to you its increase: I am the LORD your God. NKJV

*Fruit in the fifth year, that which is flowing in the grace of God, can be eaten. This means that a man who had just planted a vine had a five year exemption from battle! Though we are born on a battlefield, how often do we try to thrust new born Christians to the battlefield before their fruit is mature?*

iii. Betrothed or newlywed – verse 7

Deut 24:5

If a man has recently married, he must not be sent to war or have any other duty laid on him. For one year he is to be free to stay at home and bring happiness to the wife he has married. NIV

*The newlywed should give priority to getting to know their mates before diving into major responsibilities or warfare.*

1 Cor 7:32-35

32 I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs-how he can please the Lord.

33 But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world-how he can please his wife-

34 and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world-how she can please her husband.

35 I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord. NIV

2. The Rules of Engagement

A. The offering of peace

Deut 20:10-11

10 When you march up to attack a city, make its people an offer of peace.

11 If they accept and open their gates, all the people in it shall be subject to forced labor and shall work for you. NIV

Matt 10:12-13

12 As you enter the home, give it your greeting.

13 If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. NIV

B. The declaration of war

Deut 20:12-13

12 If they refuse to make peace and they engage you in battle, lay siege to that city.

13 When the LORD your God delivers it into your hand, put to the sword all the men in it. NIV

Matt 10:14-15

14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town.

15 I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. NIV

C. The sounding of the trumpets (warfare evangelism)

Num 10:2, 8-9

2 "Make two trumpets of hammered silver, and use them for calling the community together and for having the camps set out.

8 "The sons of Aaron, the priests, are to blow the trumpets. This is to be a lasting ordinance for you and the generations to come.

9 When you go into battle in your own land against an enemy who is oppressing you, sound a blast on the trumpets. Then you will be remembered by the LORD your God and rescued from your enemies. NIV

*Silver is the redemption metal. The blowing of the silver trumpets is symbolic of the proclamation of the gospel. Jesus promised that if we proclaimed Him before men, we would have the assistance of the angels and the Holy Spirit.*

Luke 12:8-12

8 "I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before **the angels of God.**

9 But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God.

10 And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

11 "When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say,

12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say." NIV

3. The Spoils of War

A. Captives set free

Luke 4:18-19

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach

deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. KJV

Eph 4:8

Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. KJV

B. The vanguard and the rearguard

Num 31:25-27

25 The LORD said to Moses,

26 "You and Eleazar the priest and the family heads of the community are to count all the people and animals that were captured.

27 Divide the spoils between the soldiers who took part in the battle and the rest of the community. NIV

*The whole community was to share in the plunder, both those who went to war and those who stayed with the supplies.*

1 Sam 30:21-25

21 Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow him and who were left behind at the Besor Ravine. They came out to meet David and the people with him. As David and his men approached, he greeted them.

22 But all the evil men and troublemakers among David's followers said, "Because they did not go out with us, we will not share with them the plunder we recovered. However, each man may take his wife and children and go."

23 David replied, "No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and handed over to us the forces that came against us.

24 Who will listen to what you say? **The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike."**

25 David made this a statute and ordinance for Israel from that day to this. NIV

C. Wealth into the kingdom

2 Sam 8:11-12 NIV

11 King David dedicated these articles to the LORD, as he had done with the silver and gold from all the nations he had subdued:

12 Edom and Moab, the Ammonites and the Philistines, and Amalek. He also dedicated the plunder taken from Hadadezer son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

*When people are saved, their wealth should flow into the kingdom.*

### III. War – The Pursuit of Peace

#### 1. The Weapons of Prayer, Prophecy, and Praise

A. Prayer

1 Kings 8:44-45

44 "When your people go to war against their enemies, wherever you send them, and when they pray to the LORD toward the city you have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name,  
45 then hear from heaven their prayer and their plea, and uphold their cause. NIV

Eph 6:18-20

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.  
19 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,  
20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. NIV

B. Prophecy

i. Makes a hedge

Ezek 13:4-5

4 O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts.  
5 Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD. KJV

*Prophets are supposed to go up into the gaps and make up a hedge.*

ii. Provides the way of success

2 Chron 20:20

Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful." NIV

C. Praise

2 Chron 20:21-22

21 After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever."  
22 As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. NIV

Isa 30:31-32

31 The voice of the LORD will shatter Assyria; with his scepter he will strike them down.  
32 Every stroke the LORD lays on them with his punishing rod will be to the music of tambourines and harps, as he fights them in battle with the blows of his arm. NIV

## 2. The Land Must Be Occupied

Josh 11:19-12:1

19 Except for the Hivites living in Gibeon, not one city made a treaty of peace with the Israelites, who took them all in battle.

20 For it was the LORD himself who hardened their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

21 At that time Joshua went and destroyed the Anakites from the hill country: from Hebron, Debir and Anab, from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua totally destroyed them and their towns.

22 No Anakites were left in Israelite territory; only in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod did any survive.

23 So Joshua took the entire land, just as the LORD had directed Moses, and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal divisions. Then the land had rest from war. NIV

Phil 4:6-7

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. NIV

## 3. The Enemy Defeated

1 Kings 5:3-5

3 You know how my father David could not build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the wars which were fought against him on every side, until the LORD put his foes under the soles of his feet.

4 But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side; **there is neither adversary nor evil occurrence.**

5 And behold, I propose to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spoke to my father David, saying, "Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, he shall build the house for My name." NKJV

❑ Adversary – Hebrew is *satan*.

❑ Evil occurrence – in Hebrew, the word for occurrence means impact.

## Conclusion – The End of War

Mic 4:1-4

1 In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.

2 Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

3 He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, **nor will they train for war anymore.**

4 Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken. NIV

Rev 22:1-5

1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb

2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.

4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. NIV