



Ruth & The Basis For Our Warfare

Learning Spiritual Warfare In The Bible's History Books

Leviticus 25 (NIV):

- 23 “The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants.
24 Throughout the country that you hold as a possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land.
25 “If one of your countrymen becomes poor and sells some of his property, his nearest relative is to come and redeem what his countryman has sold.
26 If, however, a man has no one to redeem it for him but he himself prospers and acquires sufficient means to redeem it,
27 he is to determine the value for the years since he sold it and refund the balance to the man to whom he sold it; he can then go back to his own property.

- List the eschatological parallels to the kinsman-redeemer scenario from Leviticus 25.23-28 and Jeremiah 32.1-15:

A. A Man Receives A Property As A Perpetual Inheritance

• *Adam receives dominion of the _____, Gen. 1.26*

B. The Man Sells His Inheritance And Does Not Have The Means to Redeem It

• *Adam & Eve “sell” their domain to _____, Gen. 3.6*

C. A Near Relative Buys (Redeems) The Property To Keep It In The Family

• *_____ pays man’s debt at the cross, 1 Cor. 1.30*

D. The Deed Is Sealed and Witnessed

• *Redemption sealed by the _____, Eph. 1.13,14*

E. Sometime Later The Sealed Deed Is Brought Forth

• *The sealed scroll held forth in _____, Rev. 5.1*

F. The Redeemer Takes Possession of The Property

• *_____ takes possession of the _____, Rev. 11.15*

G. The Original Family Line Once Again Exercises Authority Over The Property

• *Holy humanity once again _____ the _____, Rev. 5.10*

Discussion Questions

- On what scriptural basis do we recognize that Satan and his angels are presently wielding authority on the earth?

Mat. 4.8-10

2 Cor. 4.4

Ephesians 2.2; 6.12

- On what scriptural basis do we take authority over demonic powers in our midst?

Col. 2.15

Eph. 1.3-14

Eph. 1.18-2.7

Heb. 2.14

1 John 3.8

We and the world, my children, will
always be at war.
Retreat is impossible.
Arm yourselves.

— Leif Enger
(Quoted in John Eldredge, *Waking the Dead*)



Learning Warfare In Joshua & Judges

Learning Spiritual Warfare In The Bible's History Books

Vocabulary

Angel
 Apostasy
 Bokim
 Bulla, bullae
 Eschatology
 Goel
 Jubilee
 Levirate marriage
 Moral (adj.), Amoral
 Phenomenological
 Language
 Recto, Verso
 Repentance
 Sacred
 Sillybos, sillyboi
 Syncretism
 Theophany
 Topos
 Tsel (Nm 14.9; Ps 17.8)

Key Passages

Josh. 5.2 At that time the LORD said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again.”

Josh. 5.13-15 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?” ¶ “Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?” ¶ The commander of the LORD’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

Judg. 2.1-5 The angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, “I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land that I swore to give to your forefathers. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you, and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars.’ Yet you have disobeyed me. Why have you done this? Now therefore I tell you that I will not drive them out before you; they will be [thorns] in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you.” ¶ When the angel of the LORD had spoken these things to all the Israelites, the people wept aloud, and they called that place Bokim. There they offered sacrifices to the LORD.

Judg. 3.1-4 These are the nations the LORD left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan (he did this only **to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience**): the five rulers of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites living in the Lebanon mountains from Mount Baal Hermon to Lebo Hamath. They were left to test the Israelites to see whether they would obey the LORD’s commands, which he had given their forefathers through Moses.

Psa. 81.13 **“If my people would but listen to me, if Israel would follow my ways, 14 how quickly would I subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes! 15 Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him, 16 But you would be fed with the finest of wheat; with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”**



יהוה אֱלֹהֵי מִלְחָמָה יְהוה שְׂמוֹ

Ex. 15.3 The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name.

Discussion Questions

- What insights into spiritual warfare did the Lord show you as you read Joshua and Judges?

- What are the seven disciplines of spiritual warfare?

1. Eph. 1.20-23; 6.10-12
2. John 1.12,13
3. [Acts 17.30](#); Rev. 3.19
4. Ps 81.13,14; Eph 4.22-25,28
5. 2 Cor. 4.2; Lev. 26.40
6. 1 Pet. 5.8,9
7. Psalm 50.14,15,23 (NIV)

- What was the first message preached by both John the Baptist and by Jesus? Why did they emphasize this? (Mat. 3.2; 4.17; see also John 14.30)

- How are Christians like ogres?





Casting Down Strongholds In 1 & 2 Samuel

Learning Spiritual Warfare In The Bible's History Books

Vocabulary

Apostasy
Confession
Consecrate
Discernment
Eschatology
Faith
Metanoia
Repentance
Restitution
Sacred
Shuv
Stronghold
Syncretism
Topos

Key Passages

2 Cor. 10.3-5: For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 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.

1 Samuel 2:35 I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind....

2 Samuel 22: 1 David sang to the LORD the words of this song when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. 2 He said: "**The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;** 3 my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. **He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior...**

28 **You save the humble, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them low.** 29 You are my lamp, O LORD; the LORD turns my darkness into light. 30 **With your help I can advance against a troop;** with my God I can scale a wall. 31 "As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him.... 35 **He trains my hands for battle;** my arms can bend a bow of bronze.... 44 "You have delivered me from the attacks of my people; you have preserved me as the head of nations. People I did not know are subject to me, 45 and foreigners come cringing to me; as soon as they hear me, they obey me. 46 They all lose heart; **they come trembling from their strongholds.** 47 "The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God, the Rock, my Savior! 48 He is the God who avenges me, who puts the nations under me, 49 **who sets me free from my enemies....**

2 Samuel 5.6-10 The king and his men marched to Jerusalem to attack the Jebusites, who lived there. The Jebusites said to David, "You will not get in here; even the blind and the lame can ward you off." They thought, "David cannot get in here." 7 Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion, the City of David. 8 On that day, David said, "Anyone who conquers the Jebusites will have to use the water shaft to reach those 'lame and blind' who are David's enemies." That is why they say, "The 'blind and lame' will not enter the palace. 9 **David then took up residence in the fortress and called it the City of David. He built up the area around it, from the supporting terraces inward.** 10 **And he became more and more powerful, because the LORD God Almighty was with him.**

Discussion Questions

- As you read 1 and 2 Samuel, what insights into spiritual warfare did the Lord show you?

- What is *faith*, by biblical definition?

- What spiritual strongholds were evident in Eli's life?

In Samuel's?

In Saul's?

In David's?

- How can we move the focus away from ourselves and take the spiritual battle to our culture?

Paul says, *arm yourselves*, and the first piece of equipment he urges us to don is the belt of truth (Eph. 6.10-18). We arm ourselves by getting a good, solid grip on our situation, by getting some clarity on the battle over our lives.

—John Eldredge, *Waking the Dead*, p. 16.



The Idolatry Stronghold In 1 & 2 Kings

Learning Spiritual Warfare In The Bible's History Books

Vocabulary

Apostasy
Bokim
Consecrate
Eschatology
Repentance
Sacred
Stronghold
Summum Bonum
Syncretism
Transformation
Ultimacy

Key Passages

1Kings 10.1 When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relation to the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions.

1Kings 11.39 I will humble David's descendants because of this, but not forever."

1Kings 18.36,37 At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

2Kings 17.7 ¶ All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of Egypt from under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They worshiped other gods ⁸ and followed the practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before them, as well as the practices that the kings of Israel had introduced. ⁹ The Israelites secretly did things against the LORD their God that were not right. From watchtower to fortified city they built themselves high places in all their towns. ¹⁰ They set up sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every spreading tree. ¹¹ At every high place they burned incense, as the nations whom the LORD had driven out before them had done. They did wicked things that provoked the LORD to anger. ¹² They worshiped idols, though the LORD had said, "You shall not do this." ¹³ The LORD warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: "Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your fathers to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets."

2Kings 17.14 ¶ But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in the LORD their God. ¹⁵ They rejected his decrees and the covenant he had made with their fathers and the warnings he had given them. **They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless.** They imitated the nations around them although the LORD had ordered them, "Do not do as they do," and they did the things the LORD had forbidden them to do....

2Kings 17.18 ¶ So the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence. Only the tribe of Judah was left, ¹⁹ and even Judah did not keep the commands of the LORD their God. They followed the practices Israel had introduced. ²⁰ Therefore the LORD rejected all the people of Israel; he afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers, until he thrust them from his presence.

Discussion Questions

- **As you read 1 and 2 Kings, what insights into spiritual warfare did the Lord show you ?**

- **What was the essence of ancient idolatry?**

- **How is “love of the world” different from the ancient idolatry?**

James 4.4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?

1John 2.15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.



The Gift Of Prophecy In 1 & 2 Chronicles

Learning Spiritual Warfare In The Bible's History Books

Vocabulary

Apostasy
Bokim
Consecrate
Eschatology
Moral (adj.)
Prophecy
Prophesy
Repentance
Sacred
Syncretism
Type, typology

Key Passages

1Sam. 16.23 Whenever the spirit from God came upon Saul, David would take his harp and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.

1Sam. 18.10,11 The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully upon Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the harp, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.

1Sam. 19.19-24 Word came to Saul: "David is in Naioth at Ramah"; so he sent men to capture him. But when they saw a group of prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing there as their leader, the Spirit of God came upon Saul's men and they also prophesied. Saul was told about it, and he sent more men, and they prophesied too. Saul sent men a third time, and they also prophesied. Finally, he himself left for Ramah and went to the great cistern at Secu. And he asked, "Where are Samuel and David?" ¶ "Over in Naioth at Ramah," they said. ¶ So Saul went to Naioth at Ramah. But the Spirit of God came even upon him, and he walked along prophesying until he came to Naioth. He stripped off his robes and also prophesied in Samuel's presence. He lay that way all that day and night. This is why people say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

1Kings 18.13 Haven't you heard, my lord, what I did while Jezebel was killing the prophets of the LORD? I hid a hundred of the LORD's prophets in two caves, fifty in each, and supplied them with food and water.

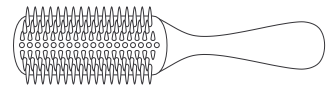
1Chr. 25.1 David, together with the commanders of the army, set apart some of the sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun for the ministry of prophesying, accompanied by harps, lyres and cymbals. Here is the list of the men who performed this service: ...

2Chr. 20.14-17 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly. He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and

Discussion Questions

- **Of the many prophets who lived during the times of the Kings of Israel, what made Samuel and Elijah and Elisha different?**
- **What was really going on when Saul was prophesying?**
- **What place should prophecy have in the church?**
- **How should we apply Deuteronomy 18.15-22 today?**
- **What should we do if we sense a prophetic calling upon our lives?**
- **What connection is there, if any, between prophecy and spiritual warfare?**

Please download the related article, "The Church's Hairbrush," at:
<http://www.tmin.org/tminpages/archive.html>





City Transformation In Ezra & Nehemiah

Learning Spiritual Warfare In The Bible's History Books

Vocabulary

Awakening
Consecrate
Eschatology
Faith
Moral (adj.)
Repentance
Revival
Sacred
Syncretism
Topos
Transformation
Type, typology

Key Passages (NIV)

Deut. 7.1-6 When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations — the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you — 2 and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy. **3 Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, 4 for they will turn your sons away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you.** 5 This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire. 6 For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

Ezra 9.1-4 After these things had been done, the leaders came to me and said, "The people of Israel, including the priests and the Levites, have not kept themselves separate from the neighboring peoples with their detestable practices, like those of the Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites, Ammonites, Moabites, Egyptians and Amorites. 2 They have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, and have mingled the holy race with the peoples around them. And the leaders and officials have led the way in this unfaithfulness." 3 ¶ When I heard this, I tore my tunic and cloak, pulled hair from my head and beard and sat down appalled. 4 **Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel gathered around me** because of this unfaithfulness of the exiles. And I sat there appalled until the evening sacrifice.

Rebuilding the Spiritual Community Began With:

- A. Daniel 9: Promise-based _____ and _____ .
- B. Ezra 1.1: God moved a _____ .
- C. Ezra 2.68,69: Material _____ .

Active Resistance to the Rebuilding Came Through:

- A. Ezra 4.1,2: Attempts at _____
- B. Ezra 4.4,5: _____ (counselors hired against them)
- C. Ezra 4.7-16; Nehemiah 6.5-9: _____ and _____
- D. Neh. 4.1-3: Ridicule, _____
- E. Neh. 4.7-8: Armed _____
- F. Neh. 6.1-4: Attempts at _____
- G. Neh. 6.10-13: Intimidation, false _____ and temptation
- H. Neh. 6.17,18: Division of _____

The Community Hindered Its Own Rebuilding By:

- A. Ezra 4 & 5; Haggai 1: Weak _____
- B. Neh. 5: Selfish and unjust _____ practices
- C. Neh. 13: _____ the laws of God

The Rebuilding Progressed When:

- A. Ezra 5: The people claimed their _____ .
- B. Ezra 5.1,2; 6.14: God's _____ word was proclaimed
- C. Neh. 8-9.3: The _____ were read
- D. Ezra 8.21-23; Neh. 1.4: People _____ and prayed
- E. Ezra 10: Compromising _____ were ended
- F. Neh. 4.13-23: God's people wore their _____
- G. Neh. 5: The people corrected their _____ practices



Leadership In Esther

Learning Spiritual Warfare In The Bible's History Books

Vocabulary

Apostasy
Bokim
Consecrate
Eschatology
Faith
Marathon
Moral (adj.)
Phidippides
Repentance
Salamis
Sacred
Syncretism
Topos
Thermopylae
Type, typology

What do we learn of Esther's character in these passages?

Esther 2.7 Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This girl, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features, and Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.

Esth. 2.10 Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so...²⁰ But Esther had kept secret her family background and nationality just as Mordecai had told her to do, for she continued to follow Mordecai's instructions as she had done when he was bringing her up.

Esth. 2.15 When the turn came for Esther (the girl Mordecai had adopted, the daughter of his uncle Abihail) to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested. And Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her.

Esth. 4.4 When Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them.

Esth. 4.15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

Esth. 5.1 On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king’s hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance. 2 When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.

Esth. 5.3 Then the king asked, “What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you.”

Esth. 5.4 “If it pleases the king,” replied Esther, “let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him.”

Esth. 5.5 “Bring Haman at once,” the king said, “so that we may do what Esther asks.”

So the king and Haman went to the banquet Esther had prepared. 6 As they were drinking wine, the king again asked Esther, “Now what is your petition? It will be given you. And what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted.”

Esth. 5.7 Esther replied, “My petition and my request is this: 8 If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come

Detail from painting by Ernest Normand (1857-1923)



My Spiritual/Relational Landscape

My Neighbor's Spiritual/Relational Landscape

