

Stripped of Power & Success at War: God blessed the people by giving them unconquerable armies and impregnable fortifications (Lev. 26:6-8, Deut. 28:6-7), and He cursed the people by disarming them of their battle-skills (“The battle is the LORD’S”), and contra-wise He blessed their enemies so that, when they attacked Israel at God’s beckoning, Israelite fortifications were breached and their defenses overthrown (Deut. 11:22-25, 28:25-26, 49-50, 52, 32:30). Now what, oh man, do disbelieve that God, in His wrath, would leave His New Testament people so that they, being rendered defenseless at God’s absence, are conquered by their enemies who seek their life? (For a detailed address of this biblical reality see Life – City & Nation (chapter 11, section 4) & Personification & Anthropomorphism (chapter 12, section 1)).

Old Testament: 1 Sam. 17:47, Jer. 17:5, & Ps. 31:20, 62:5 [the battle is the Lord’s], Ps. 119;114 [hiding place and shield], Ps. 61:3 [shelter and strong tower], Ps. 18:1, 10 [fortress, buckler, and high tower], Ps. 127:1 [watchmen], Hos. 9:12, Ezek. 21:5, Ps. 17:13-14 [the Lord joining the opposing army which fights against Israel]

New Testament: 1 Pet. 2:11 [war against the soul], Rom. 7:23 [warring], James 4:1 [wars], 1 Tim. 1:18 [warfare], 2 Cor. 6:7 [armor], 2 Cor. 10:3-6 [war, weapons, & strongholds], Rom. 13:12, 1 Thess. 5:8, Eph. 6:10-19, & Rev. 12:11 [armor, weapons, wrestling, & the secret of victory], 1 Cor. 9:26, 1 Tim. 6:12, & 2 Tim. 4:7-8 [the fight is for eternal life], 1 Pet. 4:1 [soldier-like readiness to suffer], 1 Cor. 15:32 [fighting beasts], 2 Tim. 2:3-4 [a soldier-like lifestyle].

Terrifying Conclusion: God has delivered His Old Testament people over to tribute, captivity, and annihilation, and is there no New Testament servitude and captivity to avoid (2 Tim. 2:26, Gal. 3:1, 5:1, 7-8), no war to fight in, no battle to win, or no overthrowing annihilation to escape (Rev. 13:17, Rom. 8:13, Eph. 6:12, 1 Jn. 5:4-5, Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26, 3:5, 12, 21, 21:7)? What? Do you not believe that God, in His wrath, will raise up devils to rob us of our weapons of righteousness, inundate us until we remain without skill or success to win the battle, making us tributaries to worldly wisdom (1 Cor. 3:18 [being deceived to think worldly wisdom is true wisdom], 1 Cor. 4:8-10 [being deceived to oppose apostolic doctrines and ways, i.e. normal & scriptural Christianity], James 3:15 [being deceived to fellowship with and walk in devilish wisdom instead of God’s wisdom], James 1:26-27 [being deceived so that our religion is vain])? If we do not recognize the war, learn the skill to fight the battle, reckon the eternal consequence of success or loss, discern the condition of temporary defeat, and discover the means to restore success, surely my brethren, we will perish! We must be of the number that “waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of aliens” (Heb. 11:34)! Behold it, oh man, your longstanding foes upon the battlefield! The battle rages, oh man, and the cries of your fallen comrades do sound from the carnage of dead men! “He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches” (Rev. 2:11)! Oh my brethren, “thy prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee: and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false burdens and causes of banishment” (Lam. 2:14)! How, you ask? By misapplying promises to the people of God when, at present, they are disqualified from their performance (see Life – City & Nation (chapter 11, section 4)).