

Training the Army of God!

Exodus 13:17-18

Many of us do not read the Scriptures within the context of a spiritual battle...

As a result, we completely misunderstand much of what we read in the Bible...

We read of God leading His people to wipe out entire cities and think of it from the wrong perspective...

- ***Therefore God seems harsh, brutal, even dangerous***

Then we come to the New Testament and read Jesus...

We think of Him as being loving and kind and gracious without really reading much of what He says...

John 10:30 (ESV) — I and the Father are one.”

John 14:9b (ESV) — ... Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

We are all caught up in the throgs of a COSMIC WAR...

The rebellious forces of evil, led by Satan, who is called the god of this world, hold every person enslaved in what is called the KINGDOM OF DARKNESS...

What we celebrated last week was not bunnies and easter eggs...

We celebrated the COSMIC BLOW of the Kingdom of God crushing the head of the serpent...

1 John 3:8b (ESV) — ... The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

When Jesus said “IT IS FINISHED” He paid the debt of humanity’s sin opening the door for anyone to escape the KINGDOM OF DARKNESS and enter the KINGDOM OF GOD...

Colossians 1:13 (ESV) — He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son

He did not save us to simply go to heaven when we die, but to join Him in advancing His Kingdom here on earth!

The EXODUS STORY in the Bible is a picture of our salvation story!

***Until you grasp this reality the Bible will never make sense to you and the Christian life will seem...
... disappointing...***

Have you ever wondered why it seems like God either doesn’t answer us when we pray ...

Or else He takes us places we don’t want to go?

Have you ever felt like the Lord is leading you in circles?

- ***You are trying to walk with Him***
- ***You are trying to follow His lead***

Yet it seems like your faith is simply wandering aimlessly...

Today, through the EXODUS STORY we are going to attempt to see through God’s dealings with Israel, what He wants to do in our lives...

Exodus 13:17–18 (NLT) — When Pharaoh finally let the

→ STORY – There’s always a warrior before there is a builder”

- *I was 30 years old working for a university*
- *I was working with computers*
- *I knew the Lord had called me to ministry FIVE years earlier, but for some reason I was still in computers...*
- *RON DUNN – preached a message about King David being a warrior...*
- *David had longed to build the Lord a Temple in Jerusalem*
- *But the Lord told him that he would not, but his son, Solomon would be the builder of the Temple*
- *In his sermon he gave a principle that changed my life...*

The Lord always raises up a warrior before he raises up a builder.

- *The Lord then asked me if I would be willing to become His warrior so that my sons could become the builders...*
- *In deep brokenness, knowing that I would probably never see the mighty revival I long for, I surrendered to His calling...*
- *Through these past 30+ years I have learned much about what it takes to become a warrior in God’s Army...*

Today I want to share with you FIVE things we see in the wilderness wanderings of the Israelites that can help us become mighty warriors in God’s Kingdom...

Training in...

1. The Lord’s PATH

Exodus 13:17 (NLT) — When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, “If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.”

➤ **FOLLOW the Lord even when He DOESN’T make sense!**

You are not as strong as you think you are!

A person gets saved or rededicates their life to Jesus and are so excited!

They can’t wait to see all that the Lord is going to do!

They start making plans for how they are going to run after God with everything in them...

And then life starts throwing them curves...

In those times when God’s path doesn’t seem to make sense...

... FOLLOW GOD ANYWAY!!!

Matthew 7:13–14 (ESV) — Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow

and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

It takes training in the wilderness for the Lord to prepare the warrior!

Training in...

1. The Lord's PATH

2. The Lord's PROTECTION

Pharaoh realized he had let them go and gathered his entire army to chase after the Israelites and bring them back into slavery...

Exodus 14:10–12 (ESV) — When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”

Exodus 14:13–14 (ESV) — 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. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

➤ ***TRUST the Lord with your FEARS and FAILURES!***

Isaiah 41:10 (NIV84) — So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Training in...

1. The Lord's PATH

2. The Lord's PROTECTION

3. The Lord's PROMISES

Exodus 14:15–16 (ESV) — The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground.

Backed into a corner

- *The sea on one side*
- *The wilderness on another*
- *The mountains on another*
- *The Egyptians on the other*

God has a way of putting us in impossible situations so that He can unleash the supernatural!

➤ ***The Lord is FAITHFUL no matter how IMPOSSIBLE your situation!***

Psalm 77:19 (NLT) — Your road led through the sea, your pathway through the mighty waters— a pathway no one knew was there!

The Lord has paths you don't even see...

...and won't see until you trust Him for the impossible!!!

2 Corinthians 1:20 (ESV) — 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.

Training in...

1. The Lord's PATH

2. The Lord's PROTECTION

3. The Lord's PROMISES

4. The Lord's PROVISION

Exodus 15:22–24 (ESV) — Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?”

Exodus 15:25a (ESV) — And he cried to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet...

From there He led them to places where there was not food or water and then provided MANNA every morning and WATER FROM A ROCK...

➤ **DEPEND upon the Lord for all your NEEDS!**

The Lord is a loving Father!

Matthew 7:11 (ESV) — If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Philippians 4:19 (ESV) — And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Training in...

1. The Lord's PATH

2. The Lord's PROTECTION

3. The Lord's PROMISES

4. The Lord's PROVISION

5. The Lord's POWER

Exodus 17:8–13 (ESV) — Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. So Moses said to Joshua, “Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with

Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

Exodus 17:15 (ESV) — And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The LORD Is My Banner

Romans 8:37 (ESV) — No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Philippians 4:13 (NLT) — For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

➤ **Never UNDERESTIMATE the power of PRAYER for victory!**

1 John 5:14–15 (ESV) — And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

It takes training in the wilderness for the Lord to prepare the warrior!

The Lord is raising up...

WARRIORS not WORRIERS...

WINNERS not WIMPS...

Matthew 12:30 (ESV) — Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

**Training the Army of God!
Exodus 3:17-18**

**It takes training in the _____ for the Lord to
prepare the _____!**

1. The Lord's _____

➤ _____ the Lord even when He _____ make
sense!

2. The Lord's _____

➤ _____ the Lord with your _____ and _____!

3. The Lord's _____

➤ The Lord is _____ no matter how _____
your situation!

4. The Lord's _____

➤ _____ upon the Lord for all your _____!

5. The Lord's _____

➤ Never _____ the power of _____ for
victory!