

Good morning TAC , Today is Sunday, September 7, 2025

The Bible is rich with intricate imagery and recurring patterns designed to transform you into the likeness of the Messiah. Numerous examples could illustrate this point, but consider this: Are you the bride of Christ? Hopefully, your heart immediately answered "Yes"! Now, ask yourself, "Am I a son of God?" Again, we hope your heart responded with a resounding "Yes"!

Your natural mind might have already noticed the apparent contradiction. Unless you grew up on the West Coast of the United States, our sons are not typically raised to be brides. However, this is not the point of the Biblical imagery that presents Israel as both the Bride of Adonai and the Firstborn son of Adonai. Instead, this imagery implies all the loving devotion of a spousal relationship while also incorporating the parental instruction and hope of heirship that Fathers and sons share. These metaphors are limited and are meant to complement each other without detracting from one another.

Today, we will dive deeper into our Warrior Ethos themes by examining our roles as **slaves**, **soldiers**, and **sons** within the Biblical text. These roles are designed to complement each other, enhancing our understanding without diminishing any aspect. From the outset, embrace the concept of "Addition without subtraction." We will explore the qualities of a slave, a soldier, and a son, emphasizing the importance of integrating these attributes without losing any as we progress. Each quality is essential for every believer, and we do not graduate from one role to another. Instead, we simultaneously embody all three positions, gaining the vital qualities of each.

Our message today is titled **Slave, Soldier, Son!**

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Let's begin by reviewing something from Wednesday's session on Exodus 13. It was an insight gained from examining the word "Avodah" within the book of Exodus.

(READ SLIDE)

"NEW SLAVERY"

Exodus 12:23-26 (LSB)

²³And Yahweh will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and He will see the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, and Yahweh will pass over the doorway and will not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to smite you.

²⁴And you shall keep this event as a statute for you and your children forever.²⁵

And it will be, when you enter the land which Yahweh will give you, as He has promised, you shall keep this **new slavery**.²⁶ And it will be when your children say to you, 'What is the meaning of this **new slavery** to you?'

For those who attended on Wednesday, you might remember that the Hebrew word for "slavery" is "Avodah." While this is not a linguistics lesson, Adonai didn't hesitate to inform Israel that they were entering into a form of slavery. However, it's important to notice that he described it as a "new slavery," distinct from the type they endured in Egypt. It is this new kind of slavery that we want to discuss with you, as it is foundational to your relationship with Adonai (which, by the way, means Master).

Slavery has existed in various forms within most cultures from the dawn of time. However, when modern audiences hear the word "slave" their primary associations with the term invokes only one image and that is of "Chattel Slavery". The very fact that we need to define this term for you, is proof of the need to differentiate between modern associations with slavery and what is being discussed in the Biblical text as a "New Slavery" that is distinct from what Israel experienced in Egypt.

Merriam Webster defines "Chattel Slavery" as slavery in which a person is owned as property of another **without any legal rights**. In this form of slavery, individuals

and their descendants are considered legal property that can be bought, sold, inherited, or traded, with no recognition of their rights as human beings. This system was most notoriously practiced during the transatlantic slave trade, particularly in the Americas from the 16th to the 19th centuries. It was deeply racialized, targeting African populations, and was designed to be permanent and hereditary—meaning children born to enslaved people were automatically enslaved themselves. Chattel Slavery is distinct from other forms of slavery where enslaved individuals might eventually gain freedom or hold certain rights, but chattel slavery was rigid and dehumanizing, stripping people of autonomy and identity.

Chattel Slavery is not unique to the Americas; it certainly existed within ancient cultures such as Egypt. However, Israelites did not practice "Chattel Slavery" and what is being discussed as "New Slavery" is distinctly different. For an example consider:

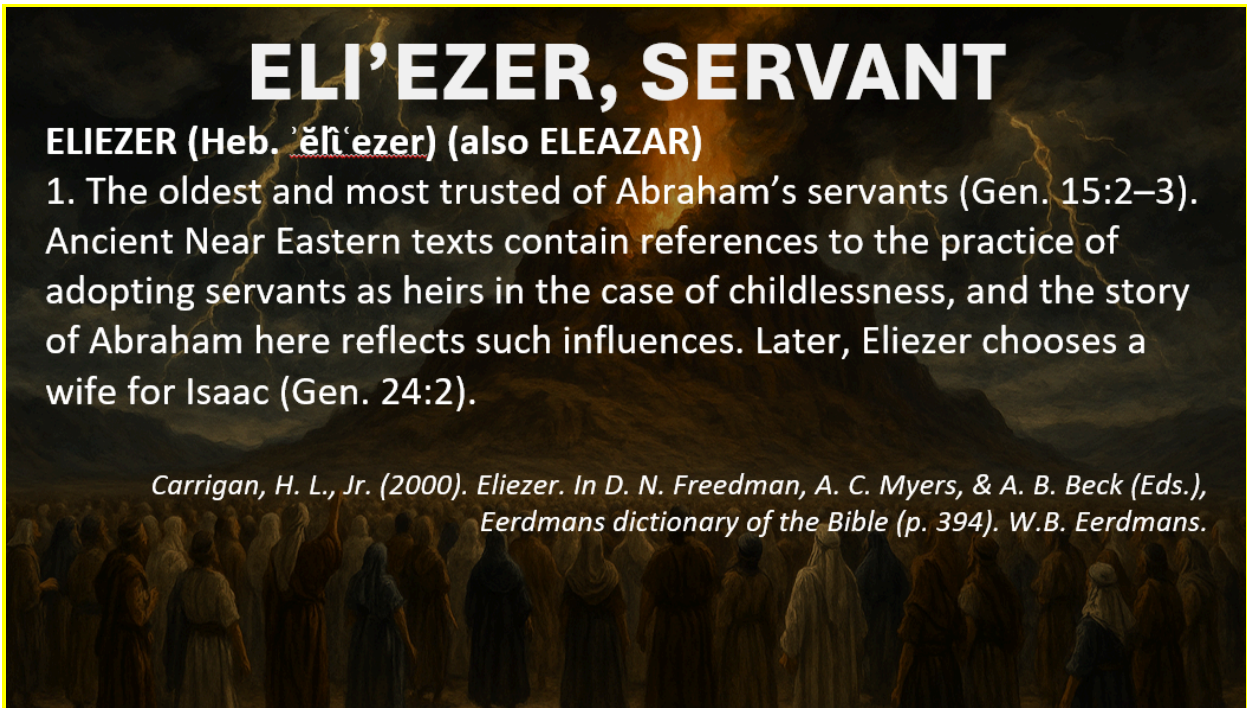
(READ SLIDE)

ELI'EZER, SERVANT

ELIEZER (Heb. ʿēlīʿezer) (also ELEAZAR)

1. The oldest and most trusted of Abraham's servants (Gen. 15:2–3). Ancient Near Eastern texts contain references to the practice of adopting servants as heirs in the case of childlessness, and the story of Abraham here reflects such influences. Later, Eliezer chooses a wife for Isaac (Gen. 24:2).

Carrigan, H. L., Jr. (2000). Eliezer. In D. N. Freedman, A. C. Myers, & A. B. Beck (Eds.), Eerdmans dictionary of the Bible (p. 394). W.B. Eerdmans.



Abraham regarded Eliezer as part of his family, even considering him as a potential heir to his estate. Despite this, Eliezer is described as an "ebed," a term that can be translated as "slave." However, many modern translations prefer to use "servant" to avoid the negative connotations associated with "chattel slavery," which are not applicable to the biblical context. Unlike the horrors of the Atlantic slave trade, the concept of servitude in biblical times was fundamentally different because it has familial contexts.

- **Exodus 21:1–6 (ESV)**

21 “Now these are the rules that you shall set before them. 2 When you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve six years, and in the seventh **he shall go out free**, for nothing. 3 If he comes in single, he shall go out single; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. 4 If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master’s, and he shall go out alone. 5 But if the slave plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,’ 6 then his master shall bring him to God, and he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall be his slave forever.

Exodus 21 primarily relates to Hebrew servants or slaves and ensures protective health rights, socioeconomic rights, and familial rights to a nation that had endured the hardships of other forms of slavery. For the most part Hebrew servants or slaves could be viewed in the light of indentured servants that agreed to a set of working conditions for certain remuneration including food, protection and were promised a bonus at the end of their 6 years of service.

All Hebrews were relatives and therefore family. What is happening is that one family member is doing well and another family member is voluntarily offering himself as a slave to the other family member. He does this because he knows that his life will be prospered and benefited by serving his master's household. From the perspective of the master, "he bought the slave to set him free" in the 7th year! Say, it with me, "He bought me to set me free!"

The position of the slave is the offer of **total obedience**, without question, because he has offered himself to a New Master! This is the kind of "New Slavery" that Adonai was inviting Israel into.

One of the largest differences between our associations with slavery and biblical associations is the familial aspect. Let's just take a quick example from both the Older and Newer Testaments:

- **Malachi 1:6 (ESV)**

6 **"A son honors his father, and a servant his master.** If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, 'How have we despised your name?'

This verse in Malachi clearly equates a son's relationship with his father and an slave's "ebed" relationship with their masters. This kind of association underscores the extent to which servants or slaves were viewed as members of the family unit. This is distinctly different from being merely property without any rights to protection, provision, or value to existence as a human.

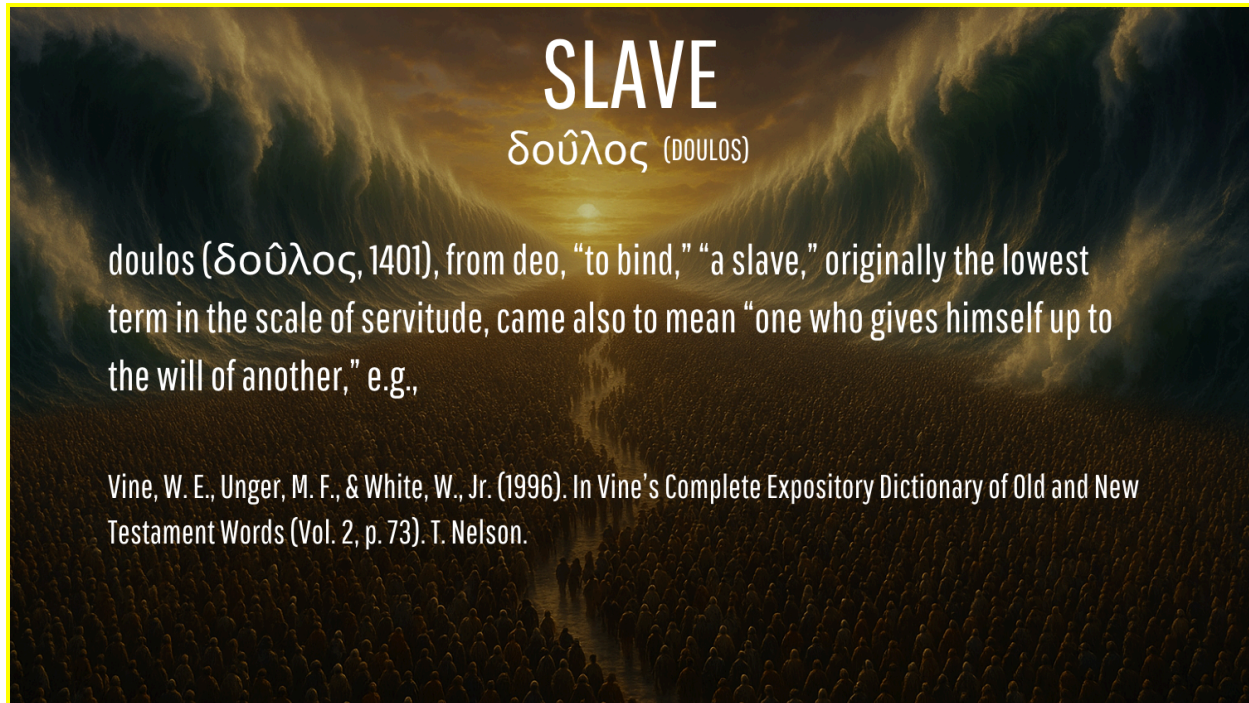
- **Galatians 4:1 (ESV)**

4 I mean that the heir, **as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave,** though he is the owner of everything,

In Galatians, the comparison between a child and a slave is highlighted once again. Both may have limited rights, yet they also enjoy certain privileges. As we delve into the text, it's crucial to set aside associations with "chattel slavery" and recognize the efforts to protect and preserve life within the Older and Newer Testaments of the Divine Revelation. This is because slavery in the biblical context is far different from your dehumanized associations. In fact, all human life is to be appraised as being in the image of God and the text continually makes provision for slaves to become family members.

In the Newer Testament, the primary word for slave is (doulos):

(READ SLIDE)



The position of the slave (which was voluntary in Ancient Israel) is one of absolute obedience and the surrendering of your will to the "New Master". In Roman rule, this was not the case... Rome practiced varied forms of dehumanizing slavery. Yet, the Biblical writers refer to themselves as "slaves" repetitiously. This emphasized that they had entered into a "New Slavery" that would result in their freedom in the 7th year. They did this because they loved the master and recognized "He bought them to set them free"!

- Romans 6:20–22 (ESV)

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.
21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have **become slaves of God**, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

Every person in this room is a slave to one master or another. You are either a slave to sin and should be ashamed... **OR** you were purchased and set free to enter a New Slavery that leads to sanctification and eternal life.



Feel the room on this point and corner them

This is Israel's story as a nation. This is also the reality for you as co-heirs of salvation. The fundamental starting place within the family is to offer yourselves as slaves to the will of the Master-Adonai. This will lead to greater obedience, greater dedication, and greater participation in the desires of your Father.

This new kind of slavery is so prominent that Paul, Timothy, James, Jude, and John all push it to the forefront of their speech and descriptions of their relationship to Messiah.

(READ SLIDE)

A NEW KIND OF SLAVE

Romans 1:1 (LSB)

1 Paul, a **slave** of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, having been set apart for the gospel of God

2 Corinthians 4:5 (LSB)

5 For we do not preach ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your **slaves** for the sake of Jesus.

Galatians 1:10 (LSB)

10 For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a **slave** of Christ.

Philippians 1:1 (LSB)

1 Paul and Timothy, **slaves** of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

James 1:1 (LSB)

1 James, a **slave** of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes who are in the Dispersion: Greetings.

Jude 1 (LSB)

1 Jude, a **slave** of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,
To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ

Revelation 1:1 (LSB)

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His **slaves** the things which must soon happen; and He indicated this by sending it through His angel to His **slave** John,

This truth should confront you! If you do not possess the obedience of a slave, then how will you ever become a dedicated soldier, and how will you become an heir that shares in the desires of the Father?

The starting place is as a SLAVE first and foremost. We may add other qualities to our relationship, but we must never subtract this essential foundational position from the equation.

- **Philippians 2:5–13 (LSB)**

5 Have this way of thinking in yourselves **which was also in Christ Jesus,**

6 who, although existing in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but emptied Himself, **by taking the form of a slave,** by being made in the likeness of men.

8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

9 Therefore, God also highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and that EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.

12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out **your salvation with fear and trembling;**

13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

The nation of Israel entered into a New Slavery at their redemption. Then they progressed to being soldiers on Adonai's behalf, and finally, they will be revealed as Sons of God that carry out his desires on earth. These qualities build on one another and never subtract from each other.

Messiah, took on the form of a slave, carried out the will of his father like a good soldier, and was revealed to be the Highest Name in heaven and on earth... The Son of God.

(READ SLIDE)

OBEDIENCE OF A SLAVE

THE BELIEVER AS A SLAVE OF CHRIST LIVES TO FULFILL ONLY THE WILL OF THE MASTER. HE HAS SURRENDERED EVERY PLAN AND DESIRE OF HIS OWN, KNOWING THAT HE WAS “BOUGHT WITH A PRICE” (1 COR. 6:19–20). HIS SERVICE IS MARKED BY TIRELESS OBEDIENCE, WHETHER SEEN OR UNSEEN, WITHOUT A CRAVING FOR RECOGNITION. HIS VERY IDENTITY IS FOUND IN BELONGING TO THE LORD — BOUND NOT BY CHAINS OF COMPULSION, BUT BY CORDS OF LOVE AND DEVOTION.

*Commit them to the position of a slave as the foundational pre-requisite for all progress

Let's progress to our next position held in parallel with a slave... That is a **soldier**



Believers are not merely slaves; they are also soldiers. More importantly, they must be transformed into "**good** soldiers" through rigorous training that equips them with the skills of seasoned warriors, capable of executing their commanding officers' orders with precision. It's important to note that Hebrew slaves were individuals who willingly chose to serve. Similarly, a Biblical soldier volunteers for this role, not as a reluctant conscript, but as men eager to join the effort. These soldiers are fully aware of the challenges they will face in their service; they embrace it, dream about it, and aspire to contribute meaningfully to the war effort. Take a look at this slide:

(read slide)

DEDICATION OF A SOLDIER

2 TIMOTHY 2:3-4 (ESV)

3 SHARE IN SUFFERING AS A GOOD SOLDIER OF CHRIST JESUS. 4 NO SOLDIER GETS ENTANGLED IN CIVILIAN PURSUITS, SINCE HIS AIM IS TO PLEASE THE ONE WHO ENLISTED HIM.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:7 (ESV)

7 WHO SERVES AS A SOLDIER AT HIS OWN EXPENSE? WHO PLANTS A VINEYARD WITHOUT EATING ANY OF ITS FRUIT? OR WHO TENDS A FLOCK WITHOUT GETTING SOME OF THE MILK?

PHILIPPIANS 2:25 (ESV)

25 I HAVE THOUGHT IT NECESSARY TO SEND TO YOU EPAPHRODITUS MY BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER AND FELLOW SOLDIER, AND YOUR MESSENGER AND MINISTER TO MY NEED,

PHILEMON 1-2 (ESV)

1 PAUL, A PRISONER FOR CHRIST JESUS, AND TIMOTHY OUR BROTHER, TO PHILEMON OUR BELOVED FELLOW WORKER 2 AND APPHIA OUR SISTER AND ARCHIPPUS OUR FELLOW SOLDIER, AND THE CHURCH IN YOUR HOUSE:

Soldiers strive to please their commanding officer, trusting the Lord for their armament, ammunition, and accompaniment of fellow soldiers. They fight for their comrades on either side, all for the glory of the Lord. Their objectives, the decision to go to war, and the manner in which battles are fought all come from above. Most importantly, the training required to become a soldier is designed from above, not at the discretion of the individual soldier.

We have been immersed in the warrior ethos for the last 8 weeks, before that we spent a few weeks on the topic of being disciplined. But when you think of, "disciplined", we want you to understand that word can elicit 2 different pictures.



Truth be told, you need the picture on the left in your life at different times for different reasons but what we are talking about today is the picture of a disciplined man on the right.

The image on the left represents the journey of becoming a disciplined individual, while the image on the right showcases the result of that transformation.

What did that soldier look like when he arrived at boot camp on day 1?

Many things had to be cut off and out of this man and many things had to be worked into him.



Isn't that what the admonition in Philippians 2 said: "work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." Our God is exceedingly good at inspiring the obedience of a slave, and instilling the dedication of a soldier. This is the working out of your salvation with fear and trembling. It is the process of working into you things that must accompany the soldier of Jesus Christ and sculpting away from you the things that do not belong.

Adonai is the commanding officer of Israel, and as their loving master and commanding officer, he called them out of Egypt in battle array.

(DO NOT READ SLIDE)

EXODUS 13:18 LSB

18 HENCE GOD TURNED THE PEOPLE TO THE WAY OF THE WILDERNESS TO THE RED SEA; AND THE SONS OF ISRAEL WENT UP IN BATTLE ARRAY FROM THE LAND OF EGYPT.

LEVITICUS 25:55 LSB

“FOR THE SONS OF ISRAEL ARE MY SLAVES; THEY ARE MY SLAVES WHOM I BROUGHT OUT FROM THE LAND OF EGYPT. I AM YAHWEH YOUR GOD.”

The Lord called Israel up and out of Egypt in battle array according to Exodus 13:18 and in Leviticus 25:55 He says, "For the sons of Israel are my slaves, they are my slaves whom I brought out from the land of Egypt. I am Yahweh your God."

They were slaves and they were soldiers from the beginning...

We want to show you what the Lord's boot camp is promised to produce in His soldiers:

(READ ALIDE)

TRAINED DEDICATED SOLDIERS LEV. 26:1-13

- RAIN, ABUNDANT HARVEST, EAT TIL YOU ARE SATISFIED, LIVE IN SAFETY (V.3-5)
- PEACE IN THE LAND, REMOVAL OF BEASTS/SWORD, PURSUE YOUR ENEMIES (V.6-8)
- FAVOR, INCREASED REPRODUCTIVITY, GOD DWELLS AMONG, CONFIDENCE (V.9-13)

Through His disciplined training, His people will experience a reality where they are fully satisfied, enjoy peace in their land, and confidently pursue and triumph over their enemies. They will find favor, increased fruitfulness, and the presence of God dwelling among them, bringing a sense of confidence and security.

But what does it take to get his soldiers into this desired outcome? Where they are learning to listen and obey His every command? It takes disciplined training. Look at this next picture of a soldier who is in boot camp training:



The commanding officer is shouting directly into the recruit's ear, emphasizing the importance of listening. The recruit must understand that failing to listen could mean the difference between life and death, not only for themselves but also for their comrades.

Leviticus 26 could be viewed as the Lord's training regimen for the whole nation that he refers to as His slaves, His soldiers, and His firstborn son. Take a look at the boot camp that the Lord takes His people through so they can become disciplined soldiers who listen to Him.

(Read slide)

THE LORD'S BOOT CAMP LEV. 26:14-35

IF YOU WILL NOT LISTEN:

- LEVEL 1: SUDDEN TERROR, WASTING DISEASE, ENEMIES STEAL CROPS & RULE OVER YOU

IF YOU WILL NOT LISTEN:

- LEVEL 2: NO RAIN, NO CROPS, FRUSTRATION IN WORK

IF YOU WILL NOT LISTEN:

- LEVEL 3: WILD ANIMALS TAKE CHILDREN, DESTROY CATTLE, DECREASE NUMBERS AND EMPTY ROADS

IF YOU WILL NOT LISTEN:

- LEVEL 4: THE SWORD COMES UPON YOU, WITHDRAW INTO CITY, PLAGUE, CUT OFF SUPPLY OF BREAD

IF YOU WILL NOT LISTEN:

- LEVEL 5: CANNIBALISM, DESTRUCTION OF IDOLATRY, THE LORD REJECTS YOUR OFFERINGS, SCATTERS YOU AMONG NATIONS

This kind of disciplined training is severe but is promised to produce supernatural transformation into a dedicated Army of God on earth. It is necessary because slaves promise obedience and soldiers pledge dedication, and yet, they often fail to listen to their commanding officer's orders. Adonai is not willing to let his nation go AWOL (Absent without leave). The basis for **both** slaves and soldiers is obedience to commands and neither are free to abandon their positions. When they do, rather than just executing them, Adonai instills further discipline into them.

Israel was redeemed as slaves; they became soldiers, in their journey to be revealed as Sons of God, future training would be required but the outcome is **inevitable**.

(DO NOT READ SLIDE)

THE OUTCOME OF BOOT CAMP EZEKIEL 20

- IDOLATRY, REBELLION IN EGYPT V.6-8
- FATHERS REJECT COMMANDS, IDOLATROUS IN THE DESERT V.13
- CHILDREN REBELLIOUS AND IDOLATROUS LIKE FATHERS IN THE DESERT V.18-21
- REBELLION IN THE PROMISED LAND V.28
- GOD REFUSES THEIR REQUEST FOR ANOTHER GOD V.32
- DECLARES HE WILL BE KING! V.33
- PURGES REBELS, THOSE THAT REMAIN LISTEN TO HIM V.39
- ALL ISRAEL WILL SERVE HIM IN THE LAND, HE WILL ACCEPT THEM VS. 40

THEY WILL LISTEN AND THEY WILL RECEIVE ALL THE REWARDS FOR OBEDIENCE

While you are looking at that slide. Take note that throughout their journey, from the time of their initial enlistment to their experiences in the desert and even in the promised land, they often displayed rebellious behavior. There were moments when they sought other gods. Yet, Adonai declares that **He will be their King**. He promises to train and transform them into disciplined soldiers who **listen to Him**.

Many individuals choose to volunteer for military service because they recognize that they need structured training to become the disciplined person they aspire to be. Through disciplined training, they transform into the soldiers they have always admired. This journey of transformation and dedication helps them achieve the goal and become an image and representation of the commanding officer.

Ezekiel 20:6-8 NIV1984

6 On that day I swore to them that I would bring them out of Egypt into a land I had searched out for them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the most beautiful of all lands. 7 And I said to them, “Each of you, get rid of the vile images you have set your eyes on, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.” 8 “But they rebelled against me and would not listen to

me; they did not get rid of the vile images they had set their eyes on, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt. So I said I would pour out my wrath on them and spend my anger against them in Egypt.

- This highlights the necessity for training, as the Lord would lead them to a secluded place in the desert to remove what was unnecessary and instill in them what was needed, so they would learn to heed His voice.

Israel is brought out of Egypt into new slavery and they are also brought out as soldiers in need of training. The beautiful part of this is the outcome is inevitable, He will be their King and they will be what He said they would be.

- **Ezekiel 20:33 (ESV)**

33 “As I live, declares the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out **I will be king over you.**

The training for the nation takes centuries. The training in an individual's life takes his lifetime. However, the result is inevitable! Those who will endure like good soldiers will have Adonai as their King and commanding officer.

- **Ezekiel 20:39 NIV1984**

39 “As for you, O house of Israel, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: Go and serve your idols, every one of you! **But afterward you will surely listen to me** and no longer profane my holy name with your gifts and idols.

The Lord's confidence in redeeming the nation and enlisting them as soldiers is truly remarkable. Despite knowing their disobedience and idolatry, He boldly declares that through training and transformation, the entire nation will eventually listen to Him and follow His commands. **The election and outcome for the nation are inevitable.** Remember, you are not Israel, but you share in the same training process. If you endure hardship like a good soldier, the outcome will be inevitable for you as well.

- **Ezekiel 20:40 NIV1984**

40 For on my holy mountain, the high mountain of Israel, declares the Sovereign Lord, there in the land the entire house of Israel will serve me, **and there I will accept them.** There I will require your offerings and your choice gifts, along with all your holy sacrifices.

Every soldier who enlists understands they are entering a life-or-death struggle. They do so because they aspire to be part of a greater purpose and to transform into something beyond their current selves. The nation of Israel exemplifies the patience of the Lord and the lengths to which He will go to transform His people. The destiny of that nation is inevitable... He is the Inevitable King of Israel.

Slaughter Announcement:

You are my family, and as we discuss being good soldiers and the inevitable destiny of Israel, I want to share something with you. I have studied this subject for years, but recently, through a series of interactions with the Word and in dreams and visions, something has become clear to me about my family's destiny. I have dedicated my life to this work and will continue to do so. Yet, I know that our ultimate destiny will be to support Pastor Justin Treaster and his family in Israel. I have no idea when or how the Lord will bring this about, but as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, I will embrace it. Since I don't know how or when this will occur, I can only conclude that the Lord is sharing this destiny with me now because it is part of my mandate to make this congregation an "acceptable offering among the Gentiles" on behalf of God's plans for Israel. Let me be very clear, the Lord has not shared with me any moving dates or times. However, I am going to spend however many years I have here, training this congregation to serve as Gentiles within God's plans for Israel.

Our congregation has been on a journey towards a deeper understanding of the role of Gentiles in God's plan for Israel. We are called to cultivate a profound love for the one nation that God has chosen to redeem and to be willing to make

sacrifices for what God cherishes. I invite you to join me in this journey of discovery and embrace the challenges we will face together, united by our shared faith. While I may have more questions than answers at this moment, I am certain about my family's destiny and the destiny of our congregation. It is an honor to even be able to consider these things and I am excited about them and excited about helping you discover the ways that your own family can be a service to God's plans for that nation.

Back to the message

To fulfill Adonai's will, we must embrace the obedience that defines our role as slaves and the dedication that characterizes our duty as soldiers.

DEDICATION OF A SOLDIER

THE BELIEVER AS A SOLDIER OF CHRIST IS TRAINED FOR BATTLE, ALERT AND READY IN EVERY SEASON (2 TIM. 2:3-4). HE KNOWS BOTH HIS ENEMY AND HIS COMMANDING OFFICER, STANDING WATCHFUL UNDER ORDERS FROM HIS KING. HIS LIFE IS MARKED BY DISCIPLINE AND ENDURANCE — NEVER CAUGHT OFF GUARD, ALWAYS VIGILANT, ALWAYS PREPARED TO FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH. HE WILLINGLY LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS BROTHERS, DETERMINED TO WIN THE BATTLE BY FOLLOWING THE MISSION AND OBJECTIVES GIVEN BY HIS COMMANDER.



“Perhaps the most studied and sought-after identity of the follower of Christ is also one of the least understood: that of a **son**. Too often this identity has been **bastardized**—reduced, distorted, or stripped of its true meaning—leaving many with only a partial picture of who we are called to be.”

When Israel was brought up out of Egypt, all 3 of these aspects were present in the way they related to the Lord. They were not only **slaves**, belonging to Yahweh; they were not only **soldiers**, set in formation for His battles; they were also a **son**, loved and called by God Himself.

(READ SLIDE)

SLAVE, SOLDIER, SON

LEVITICUS 25:55 LSB

“FOR THE SONS OF ISRAEL ARE MY SLAVES; THEY ARE MY SLAVES WHOM I BROUGHT OUT FROM THE LAND OF EGYPT. I AM YAHWEH YOUR GOD.”

EXODUS 13:18 LSB

18 HENCE GOD TURNED THE PEOPLE TO THE WAY OF THE WILDERNESS TO THE RED SEA; AND THE SONS OF ISRAEL WENT UP IN BATTLE ARRAY FROM THE LAND OF EGYPT.

HOSEA 11:1 NIV 84

“WHEN ISRAEL WAS A CHILD, I LOVED HIM, AND OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON”

As we look at a few scriptures about Jesus as a son, it is important to remember, we have been adding without subtracting this entire time. You cannot understand what a son is without the needed context of an obedient slave and a dedicated soldier. Listen to some familiar verses with those necessary aspects in mind.

(READ SLIDE AND ELABORATE AS NEEDED)

DESIRE OF A SON

JOHN 5:17 NIV1984

17 JESUS SAID TO THEM, “MY FATHER IS ALWAYS AT HIS WORK TO THIS VERY DAY, AND I, TOO, AM WORKING.” (SLAVE)

JOHN 5:19 NIV1984

19 JESUS GAVE THEM THIS ANSWER: “I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, THE SON CAN DO NOTHING BY HIMSELF; HE CAN DO ONLY WHAT HE SEES HIS FATHER DOING, BECAUSE WHATEVER THE FATHER DOES THE SON ALSO DOES. (SOLDIER)

JOHN 5:20 NIV1984

20 FOR THE FATHER LOVES THE SON AND SHOWS HIM ALL HE DOES. YES, TO YOUR AMAZEMENT HE WILL SHOW HIM EVEN GREATER THINGS THAN THESE. (SON)

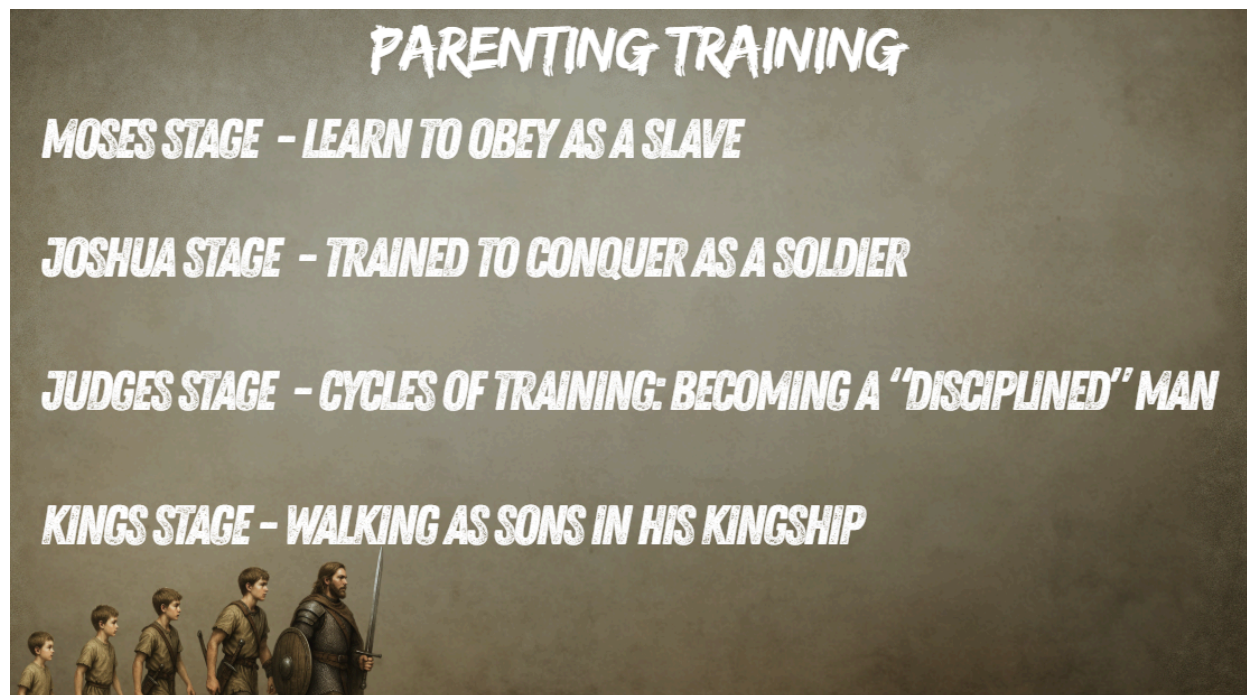
DESIRE OF A SON

THE BELIEVER AS A SON OF GOD RESTS SECURE IN HIS PLACE IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF THE FATHER (ROM. 8:15–17).

HE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE, ENJOYS THE FATHER’S PRESENCE, AND PARTICIPATES IN THE FAMILY’S INHERITANCE. HIS WORK IS NOT DRUDGERY BUT JOYFUL LABOR, BUILDING UP WHAT HE WILL ONE DAY FULLY RECEIVE. HE REFLECTS THE FATHER’S LOVE AND CHARACTER, DISPLAYING THE SAME KIND OF LOVE THAT HAS BEEN LAVISHED ON HIM, KNOWING HE IS AN HEIR OF ALL THAT BELONGS TO THE FATHER THROUGH CHRIST.

The Lord identified Israel as His son from the very beginning, even in His words to Moses at the burning bush. From the outset He revealed Himself as Master, as Commander, and as Father. Yet He also leads His people through a process, shaping them step by step, so that your understanding of Him deepens and your life begins to reflect His very character. This was true for Israel first and it is also true for you today. This is how you grow as your understanding of Him grows, and that is why you are never supposed to lose any of these along the way.

INSERT SLIDE AND ELABORATION ON PARENTING TEACHING HERE - You can see how this is built off of the parenting trainings we have:



A **slave** who never embraces that he is a soldier or a son, may appear to be a dutiful Christian always completing the assigned tasks, but he is blind to the vision of the larger warfare. In time, he becomes resentful, feeling taken advantage of and unappreciated, because he does not understand what he is working toward.

A **soldier** who is not a slave or a son may come to see every situation only as a fight instead of learning to wash the feet of their brothers and enjoy his place at the banquet table.

A **son** who is not a slave or soldier ends up feeling entitled to everything that belongs to his father, without ever learning to obey and follow orders. He doesn't actually build or contribute anything to the house and he falls apart when he faces battle.

Closing:

Eric: I am a slave of Messiah

Nick: I am a soldier of Messiah

Luke: I am a Son of God

The obedience of a slave; The dedication of a soldier; and the desire of a Son that wants to build and inherit his Father's house is the aim of our message.

The starting place is the position of a slave... without this you can not progress

The one who is obedient like a slave will progress to the dedication of a soldier

The Son is the person who is as obedient as a slave and dedicated to the process as a soldier...that man will have his Father's desires and end up inheriting the estate.

*If you will not be a slave then God will make you a subject... He will be King over you!

****If you will not progress from a slave to a soldier, God will make you a subject...
He will be King over you!**

*****If you will not become as obedient as a slave, dedicated as a soldier, then you
are an illegitimate son and will be made a subject... He will be King over you!**

Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord:

You get to choose whether you will be a subject or a son!