Good Morning Arising Church,

Our church is abundantly blessed and favored by Adonai.

Not only is our entire ministry team here, which means Pastor Eric is back! But we are also blessed with the Perot family. And rumor has it they may be here for a few weeks.

We wanted to start this morning with some important reminders from recent messages.

In Exodus 7 we learned about the fantastic encounter between Pharaoh and Moses and Aaron. We learned how it was not a mere sparing between snakes in the courts of Pharaoh, but actually a war between actual dragons.

We showed you this list of things that are actually quite normal in the Bible...



We have also been learning about the plagues, and the chaos that Adonai is throwing Egypt into. Listen to this list of chaotic circumstances Adonai will be is involved in to say the least.



Apart from Foundations, we also heard last Sunday a message titled Developing Warriors.

We had a blast with Elder Mark last week.



This was a crucial message for the men in this body. When Adonai saved you, he also enlisted you in his Heavenly Entourage. Listen to this quote that Elder Mark shook us with:

"THE BASIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ORDINARY
MAN AND A WARRIOR IS THAT A WARRIOR TAKES
EVERYTHING AS A CHALLENGE WHILE AN
ORDINARY MAN TAKES EVERYTHING AS A
BLESSING OR A CURSE."

We walked you through the 5 sanctioned Wilderness battles that Israel experienced.

#	BATTLE	<u>PASSAGE</u>	I <u>NITIA</u> TI <u>ON</u>	<u>outcome</u>	DETAILS	<u>PROPHETIC</u> <u>PATTERN</u>
1	Amalek at Rephidim	Ex 17:8-16	Attacked	Victory	Moses' hands raised	The battle against historical enemies
2	King of Arad	Num 21:1-3	Attacked	Victory	30+ years since last victory	World War 2/Nazis
3	Sihon, Amorites	Num 21:21-31	Attacked	Victory	Attacked after Sihon refused passage	1948 War
4	Og, Bashon	Num 21:32-35	Attacked	Victory	Killed Giants	Six-Day War (1967)
5	Midian	Num 31:1-12	ATTACKER	TOTAL VICTORY	zero Israelite casualities	Day of the Lord

*elaborate

This church is marked by a love for community

- A love for worship
- A love for the WORD!

AND we will be marked by a love for raising WARRIORS.

EX 15 the very first words ever written about God, is that he is a warrior.

And we are to be like him!

As we've learned, A warrior takes everything as a challenge. What do you think of when you hear the word "warrior?"

- A strong man with a sword
- o A tactical special ops guy with night vision
- In the spiritual sense; maybe just a really strong and enduring man of God...

These are not necessarily wrong but they are vastly incomplete:
 Think about this:

The difference between an average man and a warrior is how he responds when he is challenged.

Reality check:

Without death, life means nothing
Without justice, mercy means nothing
Without judgment, righteousness/ favor means nothing (isa 26:9-11)
Without war, to be a warrior means nothing

- A man of God must first face death to ever receive life
- He must first face justice to ever value mercy
- He must first face judgment to ever receive favor
- He must face war to every be a warrior.
- This is not a passive approach to the kingdom of God. You can't afford that anymore.
 - Je 48:10 (NIV) 10 "A curse on anyone who is <u>lax in doing the</u> <u>LORD's work!</u> A curse on anyone <u>who keeps their sword</u> from bloodshed!
 - The lord is making us warriors, and he is helping us. Here is how...
 - Judges 3:1–2. (NET)
- These were the nations the LORD permitted to remain so he could use them to test Israel—he wanted to test all those who had not experienced battleagainst the Canaanites. 3:2 He left those nations simply because he wanted to teach the subsequent generations of Israelites, who had not experienced the earlier battles, how to conduct holy war.

The lord allowed enemies to remain in the land to test them and to teach them holy war.

, we are going to examine the character of Adonai as he rules the earth as a warrior, and how we can reflect his image and character.

Let's begin in a familiar passage: Deuteronomy 32. This is the Song of Moses, one of Moses' most prolific portions in the Torah. This passage contains in it practically the entirety of God's prophetic plan.

Listen to some of the words he writes near the end of this 43 verse song:

- Deuteronomy 32:39 (NIV)
- 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.

Remember, this is a song! You have all sung many songs in churches about the Life the Lords brings.

"You give life, You are love / You bring light to the darkness"

- You ever sung a worship song praising the Lord for bringing death?
 - Don Potter doesn't count you all never would've listened to that without us...
- Adonai is not afraid or ashamed in the slightest that he is the one who can bring death and wound.

Our message is titled:



Here is a modern clip showing that God even today is not afraid to strike...

<u>Turkish Lawmaker Hasan Bitmez's Stirring Speech and Collapse: A Call to Conscience</u>



Today we are going to go on a war-path through the scripture, we will be visiting many difficult stories of God's mighty hand.

We could take the time to balance every statement, but it would not serve our message.

If we were to go back to the Song of Moses in Exodus, we would remind you that God being a Warrior is the first thing said about him in Song, and in written form for all time.

Remember how last week we said that Being a Warrior is not just a man's personality? It's not.

But it is Men trying to reflect God's personality! If God were to take the enneagram, or the MBTI it would come back: WARRIOR.

Luke 6:40 (NIV)

40 The student is not above the teacher, but <u>everyone who is fully</u> <u>trained will be like their teacher.</u>

If our Teacher is a Warrior, then we are to be as well. God does not train pacifists for a battlefield. He trains warriors to reflect His nature—fierce in holiness, decisive in judgment. You're not called to a passive resemblance—you're called to active representation. If you've truly been trained by YHWH, your life will bear scars, victories, and a kill count like Him.

Let's take what Ike said a minute ago and blow it up, what does it mean that God is a Warrior?

<u>Story</u>	<u>Passage</u>	<u>Kill-Count</u>
Flood over the entire earth	Genesis 6-9	-billions
Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim	Genesis 19	-thousands
Death of the Firstborn in Egypt	Exodus 12	-hundred's of thousands
Pharaoh's Army at the Red Sea Crossing	Exodus 14	-thousands
Korah and his company / grumbling Israelites	Numbers 16	14,950
Assyrian Army	2 Kings 19	185,000
Plague on Israel for David's census	2 Samuel 24	70,000
Uzzah when he touched the ark	2 Samuel 6	
Nadab and Abihu	Leviticus 10	2
Herod	Acts 12	12 (3)
Ananias Sapphira for lying to God	Acts 5	2

Flood over the entire earth:

 As we discussed in foundations, since over 1,000 years had passed since creation, and since people were living for hundreds of years and having children - there would have likely been BILLIONS on the earth when the flood happened. All of them and their blood lines completely wiped from the earth...

Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim

 The cities of the plain were burned with sulfur, it was not just two cities but four! We cannot know for certain but these cities surely would have had thousands of people in them combined.

Death of the Firstborn in Egypt

 Egypt was a world-superpower. It's not hard to imagine them having 1-3 million people in the nation. Thus, if every first born drops dead - its 100's of thousands!

Pharaoh's Army at the Red Sea Crossing

The army of Pharoh was large to say the least. If millions of Israelites walked out of Egypt how large would the Egyptian army have to be to subjugate them. Ex 14:28 he killed all of them.

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Korah and his company / grumbling Israelites

- When Korah and his 250 men challenge moses, the lord opened the earth and swallowed them all!
- The people then say: "You have killed the LORD's people!"—accusing Moses and Aaron of causing the deaths. Even though the earth swallowing Korah and his followers was clearly an act of God, the people blamed Moses and Aaron directly. In their eyes, there seemed to be little distinction between the actions of the Lord and the leadership of Moses and Aaron, as they were reflecting God rightly. Then the Lord struck the entire camp with a plague that killed 14,700

Assyrian Army

The angel of the lord comes at night, and strikes 185,000 soldiers while they slept. Think about how abrupt and startling it would be to wake up to the angel of the lord slaughtering everyone around you and... knowing you're next.

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2 Kings 19:35

- When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies!
 - Imagine the stench, imagine the absolute carnage of this scene brought about by the HAND OF THE Lord.

• Dl

Plague on Israel for David's census

 70,000 men died in Israel because of this census. The Lord was ready to act with Judgement on the people of Israel by death and was ready to destroy all of Jerusalem and it was right for Him to do so. The plague lasted from Morning until the appointed time... The word doesn't specify in this passage how long this lasted. But the Lord seemed to have no issue with enacting deadly judgement on His people as king David broke the commands of God. (Ex. 30:11-12)

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Uzzah when he touched the ark

- 2 Sam 6:6-7 The Lord's anger burned against Uzzah, because of his error and "God struck him down, and he died there beside the ark of God."
- The Lord... STRUCK HIM DEAD for touching the ark of the covenant...

Nadab and Abihu

- In Lev 10:1-2 Nadab and Abihu offered unauthorized fire before the Lord and the Lord sent fire down and consumed them. And it says "they died before the Lord."
- These men, made a unauthorized offering to the Lord. By doing this
 the Lord's judgement was that they die... right there. On the spot.

Herod

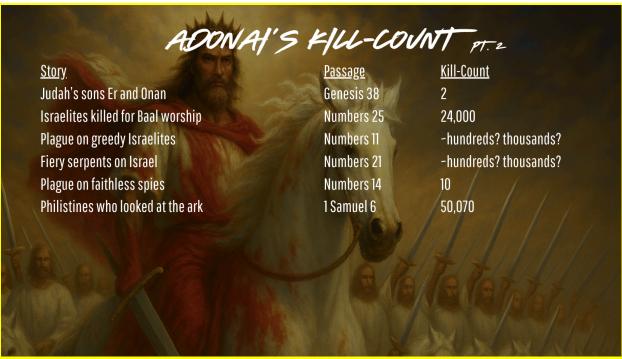
- In Acts 12:22-23 the people praise Harod saying: "this is the voice of a god."
- And the angel of the Lord struck him down and worms ate his flesh and... then he died. The Judgement of God on Herod was that he was struck down and eaten by worms...

Ananias for lying to God

- In Acts 5 Peter tells Ananias "you have not lied to man but to God."
- And he falls dead at Peters feet.
 Then his wife comes in and reflects her husband perfectly and repeats the lie and she also falls dead at Peter's feet. God was not afraid to judge even those within the Church...

That is quite a list...and there is more...

(QUICKLY READ SLIDE)



None of these deaths were because of a proxy, prophet or the sword of some other warrior/ God himself, by himself caused the death of all these people - some *seemingly*innocent, some obviously guilty.

When hearing these staggering numbers its important to remember the beginning of the Song of Moses In Deuteronomy.

- Deuteronomy 32:3–4 (NIV)
- ³ I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God!
 - He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just.
 A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

All of his works are perfect - he does no wrong! In fact, have you read this verse in the KJV?

Larry would you come read it?

ALL HIS WAYS ARE JUDGMENT - elaborate

Is this unsettling to you?

This is God's personality - he is a warrior, unafraid, and unashamed to fight on behalf of his own name and glory.

Let's keep going through the scripture, we have only read the LAW.

- Hosea 6:1 (NIV)
- 6 "Come, let us return to the Lord.

He has to pieces but he will heal us;

he has injured us

but he will bind up our wounds.

The language is quite graphic "torn us to pieces" draws imagery of an animals teeth.

*elaborate?

No one knows this better than Job. Let's remember the setting. For a first time reader, Satan is just an elohim who works for YHWH, he is not perfect by any means, but also not known as malevolent necessarily. That is not revealed until Jesus' day.

Yet, God allows him as his agent to strike Job and even kill his family. In Job 5 it says this

Job 5:18 (ESV)

For he wounds, but he binds up;
 he shatters, but his hands heal.

In Job the men discussing recognize that Adonai first and foremost wounds and shatters. Each statement begins with that fearful recognition. Job certainly felt that - and in the end glorifies God for it and repents for ever thinking God would do any wrong.

In case you thought this was just an Old Testament thing - let's transition to the Newer Testament.

Acts 12:21–24 (ESV)

- On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. ²² And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" ²³ Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.
 - **24** But the word of God increased and multiplied.

The Lord is not shy about enacting judgement on people.

This passage should not be seen as—"But Herod was a wicked man!"—Rather this should be see as this is judgement as God wills.

Revelation 5:1–5 (NIV)

• **5** Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" ³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. ⁴ I wept

and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

We see that John was weeping over the fact that there was no one to open the scroll which contained the judgements of God including—War, Famine, Death, Cosmic Calamity, and Terror! John was weeping that there was no one to release these on the earth...

This should cause us to consider what John's heart desired and longed for that our hearts don't. Remember the passage we read last week (Is. 26:9-10).

"when your judgments are on the earth, the nation's learn righteousness."

"but when favor is shown to the wicked, they do not learn righteousness."

Let's move on to one of the most striking passages concerning Christ.

REVELATION 19:11-21 (LSB)

11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; having a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself, 13 and being clothed with a garment dipped in blood, His name is also called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the wrath of the rage of God, the Almighty.

REVELATION 19:11-21 (USB)

16 And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." 17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of strong men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great." 19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army. 20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who did the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sits on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

When we consider Jesus, we all grew up with the flannel graph picture with Jesus holding a baby lamb and little children coming to this gentle, slightly effeminate caricature of what the Sunday school teachers thought Jesus would look like.

He was and is a warrior. He is the one who returns in this passage bringing death to the enemies of God man and supernatural beings. He is returning as a warrior and He is not characterized by a gentle hand... He is characterized by the fact He is coming on a horse with an army to slay by the sword all those opposed to Him. He is seen as having His robes dipped in blood! This should cause us to reconsider what we think that the character of God is.

1 Corinthians 11:29–30 (ESV)

• Por anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.

Even in the early church (and even in this body) God is not afraid to execute judgement causing sickness, weakness, and even DEATH! He did this for taking communion wrong... Does this shock you a little?

Doesn't it seem like the punishment doesn't fit the crime? Come on God, really death? Over some crackers and grape juice?

Be honest with us - after all we have gone through - did you grow up and come into the Kingdom with THIS IMAGE IN MIND OF JESUS?

WHO ARE YOU TO SAY THAT GOD'S JUDGEMENTS ARE WRONG???

These instances should not cause you to question God's judgements, they should teach you about His character and how you are supposed to reflect Him!

Mic 2:6-7. NIV

6 "Do not prophesy," their prophets say.

"Do not prophesy about these things; disgrace will not overtake us."

7 You descendants of Jacob, should it be said,

"Does the LORD become impatient?

Does he do such things?"

"Do not my words do good to the one whose ways are upright?

This topic, is unfortunately uncomfortable to discuss among believers. We can feel it as we stand in front of you right now. Something about it feels wrong. But nothing could be further from the truth. We have just showed you a CONDENSED list of passages where God himself causes death on a small or MASS scale. We did not even include the times he uses the swords of men to do it.

Let's revisit something we said earlier:

- Without death, life means nothing
- Without justice, mercy means nothing
- Without judgment, favor means nothing (Is. 26:9-11)
- Without war, to be a warrior means nothing

Most of you came into the kingdom with the swan song of "God loves you just how you are, but too much to leave you that way."

In reality, if you have never experienced the judgment and wrath of God - can you actually even begin to understand His love at all?

We learn the character of God in reverse. Salvation begins with repentance not affirmation.

If you began your salvation journey with a true understanding of his

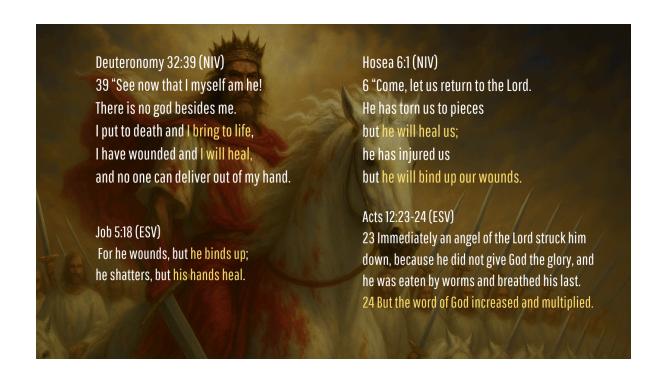
judgment wrath and zeal for war - don't you think you would truly then have a deep gratitude for his love?

God's pattern is that you first and foremost KNOW him as a warrior, with a sword in his hand ready to strike - and then receive the incredible revelation that if you repent and cry out to him - he actually will love you, empower you, and be with you!!

If your view of the Lord starts as Jesus is a lovey dovy hippie and then you read or hear that the lord hates the wicked (**psalm 5:5**) and acts with wrath, it sounds inconsistent and perhaps unpredictable.

The result? YOU begin to act inconsistent and unpredictable in what is perhaps a genuine effort to live out your faith and represent the Lord but your caged by cognitive dissonance (Diacreno). Resulting in chaos!

But if you start with an understanding that he is a warrior, clothed in vengeance... than the mercy of God actually feels undeserved and it actually means something. Then... imitating the Lord as a warrior becomes instinct. And the mercy you show to others will actually mean something! After all, let's look back at some of the passages we already read!



**when I first starting seeing real transformation in my life, was when I was confronted by Godly men representing the Lord as a warrior.

(Masi, Ant, James, Slaughter)**

Asa's testimony about Luke sharing this with me - realized God's mercy

Our aim is to know the character of the lord as he has revealed it. So that we can imitate it.

- Proverbs 9:10–12. NIV
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
 - 11 For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.
 - 12 If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer.

When we view the Lord as a warrior, in light of our message today - of course it is the FEAR of the Lord that is the beginning of wisdom. This reminds us of something you should be familiar with in Foundations...

Exodus 5:2 (LSB)

• But Pharaoh said, "Who is Yahweh that I should listen to His voice to let Israel go? I do not know Yahweh, and also, I will not let Israel go."

Pharoh states that He does not know the Lord! God now has the opportunity to introduce himself to Pharaoh!

He does not do this by telling him that he loves him and just wants a hug... NO!

The Lord responds by ensuring Pharoh knows for certain that He is a warrior and is high above all earthly powers and dominions and will fight violently for His firstborn Israel.

The way that the Lord makes himself known to Pharoh is by His judgement and wrath poured out over Pharoh and all of Egypt.

God goes on to specifically tell Pharaoh as he in enacting judgment that by experiencing these plagues - he will KNOW that he is Yahweh. Look at this slide.

Reference	Spoken to	Event	Phrase
Ex 7:16-17	Pharoh by Moses	Blood	By this <u>you shall know</u> that I am Yahweh
Ex 8:10	Pharoh by Moses	Frogs	that <u>you may know</u> that there is no one like Yahweh our God

Ex 8:22	Pharoh by Moses	Flies	that <u>you may know</u> that I, Yahweh, am in the midst of the land.
Ex 9:14	Pharoh by Moses	Hail	that <u>you may know</u> that there is no one like Me in all the earth.
Ex 9:29	Pharoh by Moses	Hail	that <u>you may know</u> that the earth is Yahweh's.

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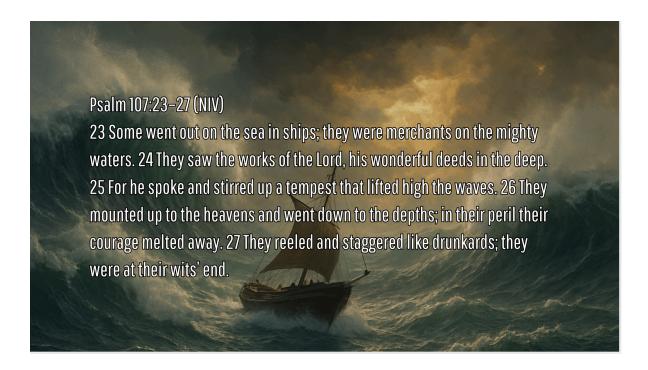
Five times the plagues are given and it is said to Pharoh that this act of God is so you may know YHWH is Lord.

Remember what we said about 5 last week?

These judgments and plagues on Pharaoh are a grace, a mercy so that He may know who the Lord is...but Pharaoh never repents...

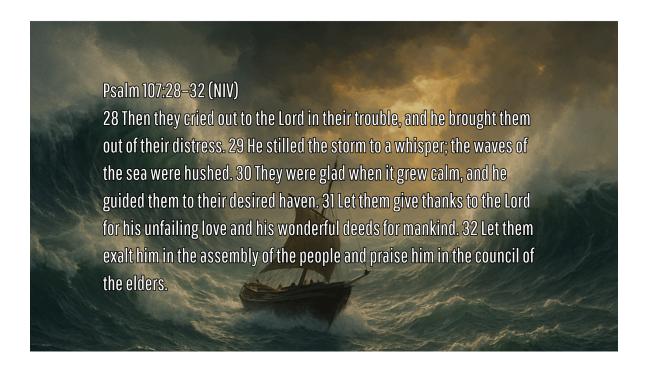
We bet you're still wondering where our title comes in....we're almost there. 1st!

We have one more from the OT Writings we have to show you.



Adonai stirs up a tempest on the merchants. It does not say why, but it does say what it caused in them. It says they were in peril and at their wits end. The tempest that God caused it about to kill them, they are doomed.

God did not do this just for his own pleasure. All of this disaster, destruction and death we have been reading about all has purpose, and so does the tempest in Psalm 107. But it was surely hard for the merchants to see that when the waves were as high as heaven and as deep as the depths.



The merchants in their peril cry out to God for help. The purpose for the storm was finally coming. God caused the storm so that when the people cry out - he could calm it. And not only did he calm it - he brought them to their desired haven.

God's war-path, God's storm is designed so that His people would cry out to him and reach their desired haven.

When the storm comes in your life - average men see it as a curse.

Warriors see it as a challenge. The only question is, how will you respond?

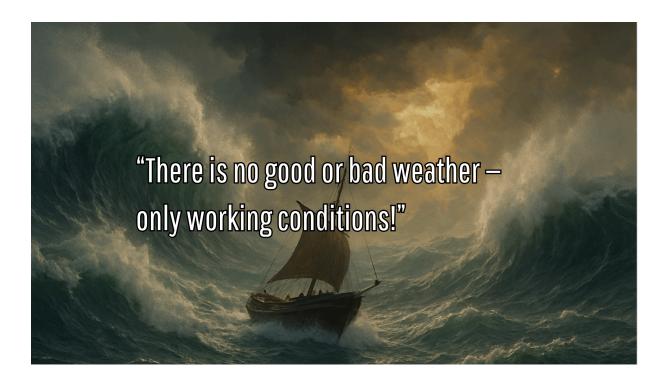
Let's be real, we attributed the warrior spirit to many men during the sermon last week - in all honesty if a bunch of you men in here had the warrior spirit of God - we wouldn't need these messages - BUT WE DO. God is going to bring the warrior out of the men and women in this house! He is bringing it out of us in new depths!

Peter Testimony:

- It has certainly felt like a tempest the last many months in my home.
- Cancer-scare, still lots of persistent health issues, Joy in perpetual pain (frustrating, expensive, scary).
- Lot's of people have come up to me and commended me and my family for how we have handled it all - amen. AND, I have received so many words about this year being a big one for my family considering with my turning of 30.
- Behind all of that, it was apparent that for me, the Lord was sending a storm to develop me into a warrior and strip me of Pride.
- Turns out the glory of turning 30 I was hearing about had nothing to do with the best sermons or glorious moments of ministry that make me look good - but everything to do with further transformation through daily death to self.
 - In reality I've had countless sinful/faithless thoughts about all the health issues.
 - In reality, I've projected a stronger image of how I was handling it all and leading my family than was actually present.
 - In reality, I saw it as frustrating and a curse and not always seen it as a challenge.

My family is learning the storm is meant to lead my family to its desired haven! He is stripping us of pride and self-reliance. He is forming in us the warrior mentality that laughs at difficulty and takes up arms in the face of war instead of grumbling or cowering.

Elder Garret met a 45-year fire chief who had boots on the ground at 9/11 this week. He spoke these words to Elder while he was receiving fire training:



Warriors never reel at the weather, but glory in the opportunity to die every day for the privilege to live for Christ.

Warriors do not see Adonai - the Holy Warrior and get uncomfortable. They see Him and desire to be made like him.

As a warrior of God - you must begin to cherish the storm because you know that it produces warriors.

You will never embody the Warrior Spirit of God unless you willingly enter the storm. You will never embody the Warrior Spirit of God unless you are willing to BRING the storm.

You're probably wondering why we called the message: Live-Die-Repeat.



There a little known movie that was almost named Live-Die-Repeat. The basic concept unbeknownst to Tom Cruise is allegorical for becoming a Warrior for Adonai.

The movie begins as our protagonist is not a warrior, he does not want to be on the front lines - and yet he is forced too. He dies almost immediately upon landing on the beach. He then wakes up the day before, only to live the battle over again. At first he tries to run to get away from the battle, but he soon realizes there is no way out of the fight.

He then spends years, reliving the same day, dying over and over again, but also getting better at the fight. His hope to get out of the fight fades, and turns into the drive to become a better fighter every day to maybe have a chance to actually win tomorrow.

This is the warrior spirit of Adonai. **Live** each day - to **die** - and then **repeat** again and again — Both facing the storm, and becoming the storm is death every day to your flesh — but resurrection for your

spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:29–36 (ESV)

• Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? ³⁰ Why are we in danger every hour? ³¹ I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³² What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." ³³ Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." ³⁴ Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. ³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.

Application:

 Live-die-repeat /embrace a life that dies every day to become a better fighter

2 Ti 2:3-4.

3 Join with me in suffering, **like a good soldier** of Christ Jesus. 4 **No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs,** but rather tries to please his commanding officer

 The Lord is not asking — He's demanding a maturing through warfare in this body.

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- You weren't called to die once and then coast you were called to LIVE and DIE DAILY, to endure suffering like trained soldiers. LIVE-DIE-REPEAT.
 (And make no mistake — suffering will follow when you choose to live like a warrior.)
- This is not metaphor. This is real sacrifice and real obedience.
- Warriors don't flinch. They rise daily with one goal to please their Commanding Officer in word, will, and warfare

A warrior cannot get entangled in civilian affairs:

 The Lord is demanding a stripping away of <u>ALL earnestness</u> and zeal for civilian affairs in this house. <u>You cannot afford to</u> <u>be earnest for anything other than what pleases your</u> commanding officer.

Galatians 4:8-9 (NIV)

"Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods.

But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces?

Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?"

Galatians 4:17 (LEB)

<u>They zealously seek you</u>, not commendably, but they want to exclude you, in order <u>that you may seek them zealously.</u>

- These weak and miserable forces are looking to exclude you from the body of Christ. And make you zealous for them.
- If you've been chasing another way, another path, another war, another God — REPENT.

- YOU ARE MAKING A GOD AFTER YOUR OWN IMAGE or not to split hairs, but you are making a god formed from your own imagination.
- Embody the Warrior / become the storm so you can calm it

Acts 13:9-12 (LSB)

- 9 But Saul, who was also *known as* Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him,
- and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord?
- "Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time." And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand.
- 12 Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

Paul is a man who is representing God rightly by discerning what needs to be done in a moment and is not afraid to speak the very direct and painful truth that this man needs to hear. Paul acted in the power of God to bring judgement on this man for His wickedness and it brought about the faith of those who witnessed the judgment. Paul is creating a storm that will bring the salvation of Sergius the proconsul.

As we have just walked you through in Psalm 107, YHWH creates storms everywhere He goes. He is not afraid of causing storms to execute His judgements on the earth.

The natural consequence of men of God reflecting His character as a warrior is that storms will follow every where they go. This is for the

sake of revealing who God is and to bring judgements on those who refuse to repent.

- Correcting a brother in sin may stir the flesh and increase conflict, creating a storm, yet it is the only path to reach the desired haven of winning your brother back to righteousness!
- Taking a firm biblical stance with family can strain relationships and stir emotions, making situations seem more like a calamitous storm, but this is the only way to reach the desired haven of a family reconciled to God and one another!
- Disciplining children may provoke poor reactions and heightened emotions for your spouse, family, friends and definitely the children! Seemingly like the tempest with waves as high as heaven, or as deep as the depths, yet it is the only way to reach the desired haven of a child who fears the Lord! You must bring the discipline - so you can instruct with the Word of God!
- None of this is conflict for no reason. It is for the sake of righteousness on the earth!

We have to be able to boldly represent God and not be afraid to cause some storms in our lives, the lives of others, and in the world around us.

- In this body the Lord is demanding our attention to the matter of developing a warrior Spirit like His.
- He is requiring of us to represent Him in all His ways, not simply the ones YOUare comfortable with.
- We must be so full of the Word and Spirit that we are causing storms everywhere we go by confronting the wicked world around us so they can be lead into repentance.
- This is not a suggestion, recommendation, or good advice.

■ This is the requirement of mankind that we reflect Adonai here by bringing His judgements and His order to the earth.

You as a representative of God must be willing to cause storms wherever you go. This is the way our Messiah walked and it is the way we are called to walk after Him.

Arising Church, we will be a body that is developed into the kind of God-like warriors that both embrace the storm as a challenge to represent God rightly—AND—we will be a body that has NO fear of creating storms in our lives, our family's life, and the world around us by refusing to be moved from doing the work of advancing the kingdom!