

WAR

There are many references to wars in the Old Testament, particularly as the Israelites enter and take over Canaan gradually. This topic does not catalog these wars but rather lifts up issues related to war. (See also Alliances, Armaments, Exploitation, Holy War, Violence, and various Nonviolence and Peace topics.)

THERE IS A TIME FOR WAR AND A TIME FOR PEACE

ECCLESIASTES 3:8

CAUSES OF WAR

Disobedience to God

2 CHRONICLES 15:1-7

Selfishness and covetousness

JAMES 3:13-4:4

GOD INSTRUCTS ISRAEL TO CONQUER CANAAN, AND BEGINS TO SET RESTRICTIONS FOR WARRING (See Holy War)

EXODUS 34:10-16

DEUTERONOMY 7:1-6

LAWS REGARDING HOLY WAR (See Holy War)

DEUTERONOMY 20:1-20

LAWS AND LIMITATIONS ON RETENTION OF "BOOTY," THE SPOILS OF WAR

DEUTERONOMY 20:1-20

DEUTERONOMY 21:10-14

1 SAMUEL 15:1-23

2 CHRONICLES 28:8-15

BOOTY EQUALLY SHARED BETWEEN COMBATANTS AND NON-COMBATANTS AT MIDIAN

NUMBERS 31:25-54

DAVID DECIDES THAT BOOTY WILL BE SHARED EQUALLY WITH SOLDIERS WHO STAYED BEHIND

1 SAMUEL 30:21-31

WAR AGAINST ARAMEANS; THE "BAN" IS VIOLATED

1 KINGS 20:1-43

MILITARY ENROLLMENT IN THE WILDERNESS

NUMBERS 1:1-54

WHEN ASSEMBLE FOR WAR IN YOUR OWN LAND, MUST SOUND TRUMPET CALL

NUMBERS 10:1-10

A KEY DISADVANTAGE TO HAVING A MONARCH IS THE MONARCH WILL USE YOUNG MEN FOR WARFARE

1 SAMUEL 8:10-12

EXEMPTIONS FROM MILITARY SERVICE

DEUTERONOMY 20:5-9

DEUTERONOMY 24:5

JUDGES 7:3
IF GOD IS WITH US WE SHALL BE VICTORIOUS
PSALM 45:1-12
MOSES' SONG OF VICTORY DESCRIBES GOD AS WARRIOR
EXODUS 15:1-18
GOD IS GREAT AND WILL SAVE IN TIME OF WAR
JOB 5:17-20
PLEAS FOR GOD TO COME TO ISRAEL'S AID
PSALM 44:9-26
PSALM 60:1-12
BLESSED BE GOD WHO TRAINS ME FOR BATTLE
PSALM 144:1-2
GOD IS MY STRENGTH AND TRAINS ME FOR BATTLE
2 SAMUEL 22:32-43
PSALM 18:31-42
SOLOMON PRAYS THAT GOD WILL UPHOLD ISRAEL IN BATTLE
1 KINGS 8:44-45
WHEN WAR ARISES AGAINST ME, GOD WILL PROTECT ME
PSALM 27:3
IT WAS FAITH THAT ALLOWED BIBLICAL LEADERS TO BE STRONG IN WAR
HEBREWS 11:32-34
DEBORAH LEADS ISRAEL TO VICTORY
JUDGES 4:1-24
GOD DEFEATS A UNITED FRONT OF KINGS
PSALM 48:1-7
GOD IS THE ONLY GOD WHO WAS CAPABLE OF USING WAR TO FREE
ISRAELITES FROM SLAVERY AND MOVE THEM TO PROMISED LAND
DEUTERONOMY 4:32-40
IT IS NOT HUMAN POWER BUT GOD'S POWER THAT BRINGS VICTORY
(See also Holy War)
EXODUS 15:1-18
DEUTERONOMY 7:17-26
DEUTRONOMY 8:17-20
DEUTERONOMY 9:1-6
JOSHUA 24:1-13
JUDGES 6:7-10
PSALM 44:1-8
PSALM 76:1-12
PSALM 78:52-55
MICAHA 4:9-13
ISAIAH 10:12-19
HOSEA 1:7
GOD LEAVES NATIONS IN CANAAN TO TEST ISRAEL'S OBEDIENCE AND
STRENGTH THROUGH WAR
JUDGES 2:20-3:6
WOE TO YOU WHO TRUST IN THE MILITARY MIGHT OF EGYPT

ISAIAH 31:1-3

YOU WILL BE DEFEATED IN WAR BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN UNJUST AND YOU HAVE TRUSTED IN YOUR OWN MILITARY POWER

HOSEA 10:13-15

ISRAEL WILL BE VICTIMS OF WAR IF DISOBEDIENT TO GOD

DEUTERONOMY 28:47-57

ISRAEL WILL BE VICTIMS OF WAR BECAUSE OF DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD

ISAIAH 5:5-7

ISAIAH 5:25-30

JEREMIAH 5:15-17

GOD TURNS AGAINST ISRAEL IN WAR BECAUSE OF THEIR DISOBEDIENCE

JEREMIAH 21:1-10

GOD REJECTS DAVID'S USE OF WAR FOR HUMAN PURPOSES

1 CHRONICLES 22:5-10

SOME EXAMPLES OF HUMAN-CREATED WAR (AS OPPOSED TO GOD'S HOLY WAR)

JUDGES 12:1-6

2 SAMUEL 3:1

2 SAMUEL 20:1-26

1 KINGS 14:30

1 KINGS 16:21-22

GOD WILL BRING WAR AMONG THOSE LIKE EGYPT WHO DO NOT WORSHIP GOD

ISAIAH 19:1-15

PUNISHMENT OF THOSE WHO WAR ON PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY ARE SAFE

MICAH 2:1-11

WARS OF EXPLOITATION OF POOR PUNISHED

MICAH 3:5-7

GOD USES WAR AS PUNISHMENT

EXODUS 23:24

LEVITICUS 26:17

LEVITICUS 26:31-39

DEUTERONOMY 28:25-68

DEUTERONOMY 32:30

JUDGES 2:14

2 KINGS 15:37

1 CHRONICLES 5:22

1 CHRONICLES 5:26

1 CHRONICLES 21:12

2 CHRONICLES 15:6

2 CHRONICLES 12:1-12

2 CHRONICLES 24:23-24

2 CHRONICLES 33:11

JOB 19:29

PSALM 44:9-16
PSALM 60:1-3
PSALM 105:25
ISAIAH 5:1-8
ISAIAH 5:25-30
ISAIAH 9:8-12
ISAIAH 13:3-4
ISAIAH 13:9
ISAIAH 19:2
ISAIAH 34:2-6
ISAIAH 43:28
ISAIAH 45:7
JEREMIAH 12:7
JEREMIAH 12:12
JEREMIAH 46:15-17
JEREMIAH 46:21
JEREMIAH 47:6-7
JEREMIAH 48:10
JEREMIAH 49:5
JEREMIAH 50:25
EZEKIEL 23:22-25
AMOS 3:6
AMOS 4:11
ZEPHANIAH 1:7-18
ZECHARIAH 8:10
ZECHARIAH 14:2

FOREIGN KINGS ARE "WEAPONS" USED BY GOD

Cyrus

2 CHRONICLES 35:22-23
EZRA 1:1-2
ISAIAH 41:1-5
ISAIAH 45:1-6

Nebuchadnezzar

1 CHRONICLES 6:15
EZRA 5:12
JEREMIAH 21:1-10
JEREMIAH 25:8-14
JEREMIAH 27:4-11
JEREMIAH 28:12-14
JEREMIAH 32:28
JEREMIAH 49:28-29
JEREMIAH 43:8-11
JEREMIAH 46:25-26
EZEKIEL 26:7
EZEKIEL 29:18-20
EZEKIEL 30:10-11

PSALMIST CRIES FOR PEACE IN A LAND WHICH WANTS WAR

PSALM 120:1-7

O GOD, PUNISH THE WARMAKERS

PSALM 68:28-30

ABNER ASKS FOR AND RECEIVES END TO KILLING

2 SAMUEL 2:24-28

ELISHA PROVIDES AN ALTERNATIVE TO WAR (See Nonviolence, Corporate)

2 KINGS 6:8-23

WISDOM BETTER THAN WAR

PROVERBS 21:22

ECCLESIASTES 9:13-18

A KING GOING TO WAR WILL ASSESS IF HIS STRENGTH IS GREATER; IF NOT, HE WILL SUE FOR PEACE

LUKE 14:31-32

WISDOM MORE IMPORTANT THAN STRENGTH IN WAGING WAR

PROVERBS 11:14

PROVERBS 20:18

PROVERBS 24:5-6

WAGING WAR IN TIMES OF PEACE CONDEMNED

1 KINGS 2:5-6

GOD WILL BREAK THE WEAPONS OF WAR

PSALM 76:1-12

GOD WILL DESTROY THOSE WHO MAKE WAR ON ISRAEL

ISAIAH 41:8-16

ZECHARIAH 14:1-5

AS A PRECURSOR TO GOD'S MESSIANIC REIGN THERE WILL BE "WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS:

MATTHEW 24:1-44

MARK 13:1-13

LUKE 21:5-33

AS A PRECURSOR TO GOD'S MESSIANIC REIGN THERE WILL BE FINAL BATTLES

DANIEL CHAPTERS 7-12

REVELATION CHAPTERS 6-20

IN GOD'S MESSIANIC REIGN THERE WILL BE AN END TO WAR AS A PART OF THE FINAL "SHALOM"

PSALM 46:1-11

ISAIAH 2:1-4

HOSEA 2:16-23

MICAH 4:1-4

JOEL 2:19-20

ZECHARIAH 9:9-10

MISCELLANEOUS REFERENCES

My companion's words were smooth, but war was in heart

PSALM 55:20-23

Soldiers ask John the Baptist what they must do to live ethically; answer,
do not extort and be content with wages

LUKE 3:10-14

I come not to bring peace but a sword

MATTHEW 10:34-39

Those who live by the sword die by the sword

MATTHEW 26:47-52

REVELATION 13:10

Christians engage not in worldly war but in warfare of ideas and spirit

2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-6