



A Time for War

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

“Should We Pray for the Defeat of ISIS, or Their Conversion?”

- The complexity of the Christian calling in the world was seen even in social media. One friend of mine posted that the slaughter of Christians overseas calls for the world’s only remaining superpower to take action. Another said, quoting singer Toby Keith, that it was time to “light up their world like the Fourth of July.” To that, I say, “Amen.” Another friend, a former student of mine posted, “Oh, that there might be an ISIS Saul standing there now, holding the cloaks, whose salvation might turn the Arab world upside down with the gospel!” To that I say “Amen,” too. These are not contradictory prayers. – Russell Moore**

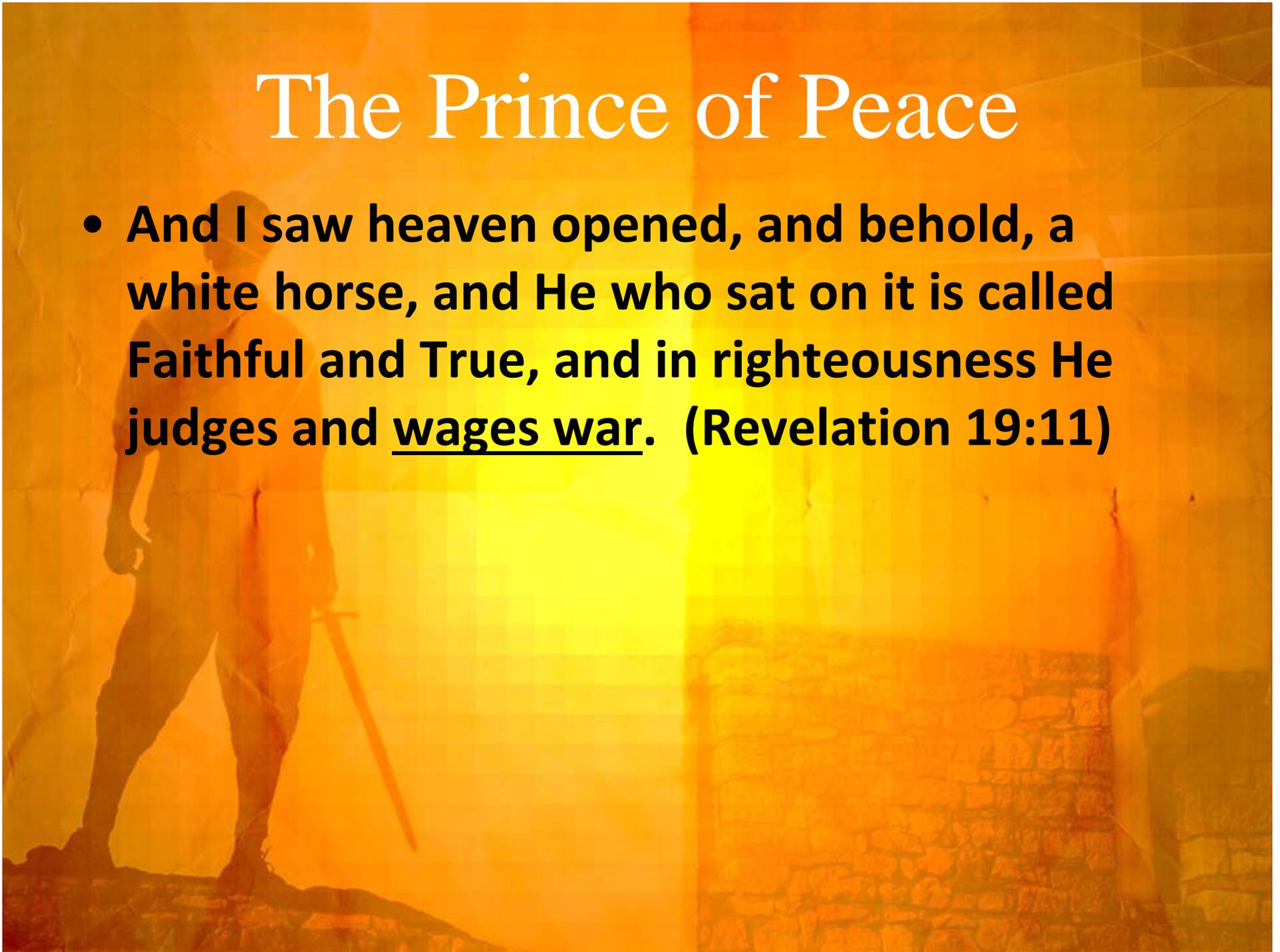
Casualties

- **World War I: 9 million military, 30 million civilian casualties**
- **World War II: 17 million military, 34 million civilians casualties**



The Prince of Peace

- **And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. (Revelation 19:11)**

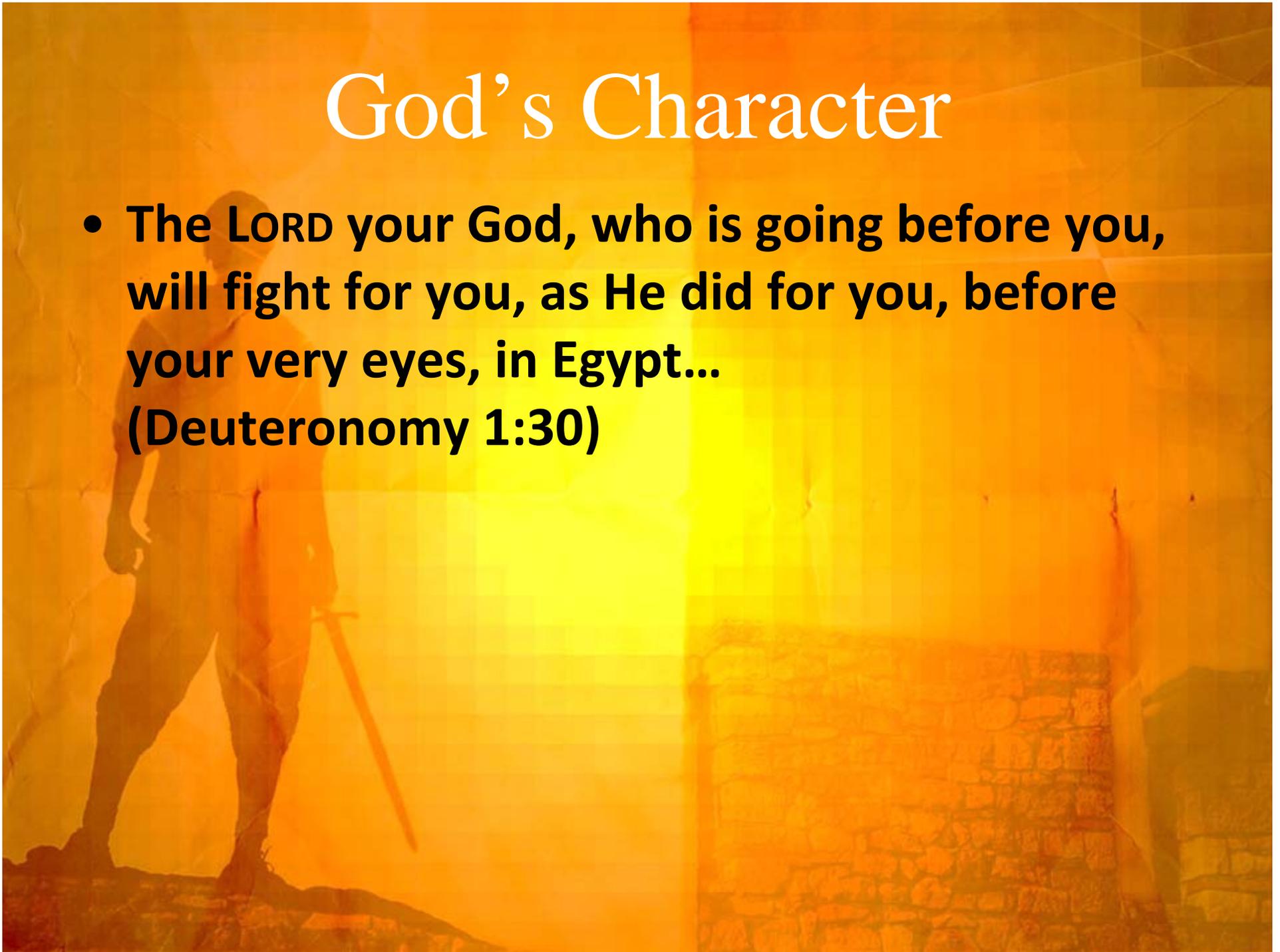


God's Character

- ¹ Then Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and said, “I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted; the horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea...
³ The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is His name.
(Exodus 15:1, 3)
- “The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.” (Exodus 14:14)

God's Character

- **The LORD your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as He did for you, before your very eyes, in Egypt...
(Deuteronomy 1:30)**



The LORD is a warrior

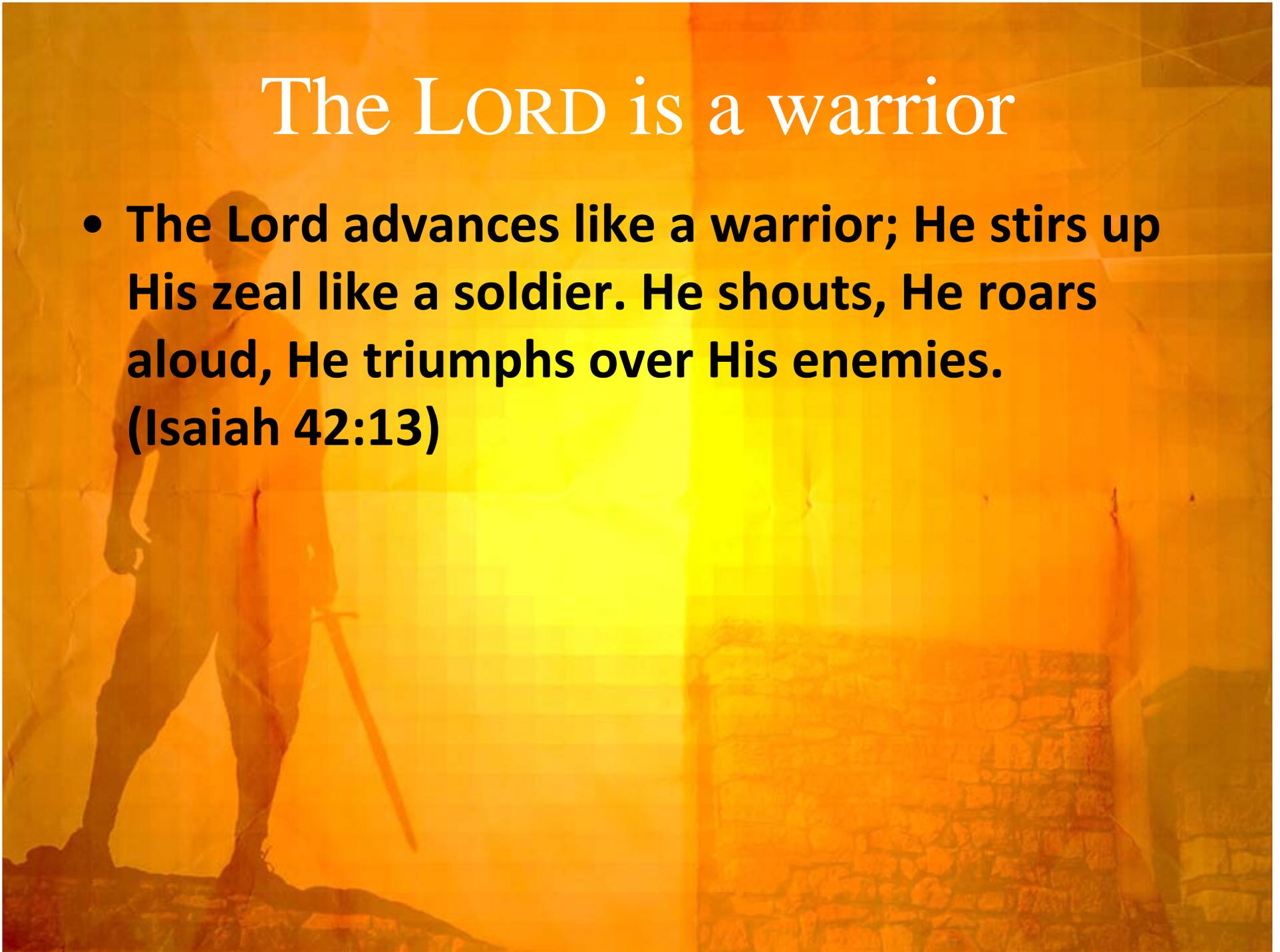
- **²¹ At that time I commanded Joshua: “You have seen with your own eyes all that the LORD your God has done to these two kings. The LORD will do the same to all the kingdoms over there where you are going. ²² Do not be afraid of them; the LORD your God Himself will fight for you.” (Deuteronomy 3:21-22)**

The LORD is a warrior

- **All these kings and their lands Joshua conquered at one time, because the Lord, the God of Israel, fought for Israel.
(Joshua 10:42)**
- **Who is the King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.
(Psalm 24:8)**

The LORD is a warrior

- **The Lord advances like a warrior; He stirs up His zeal like a soldier. He shouts, He roars aloud, He triumphs over His enemies.
(Isaiah 42:13)**

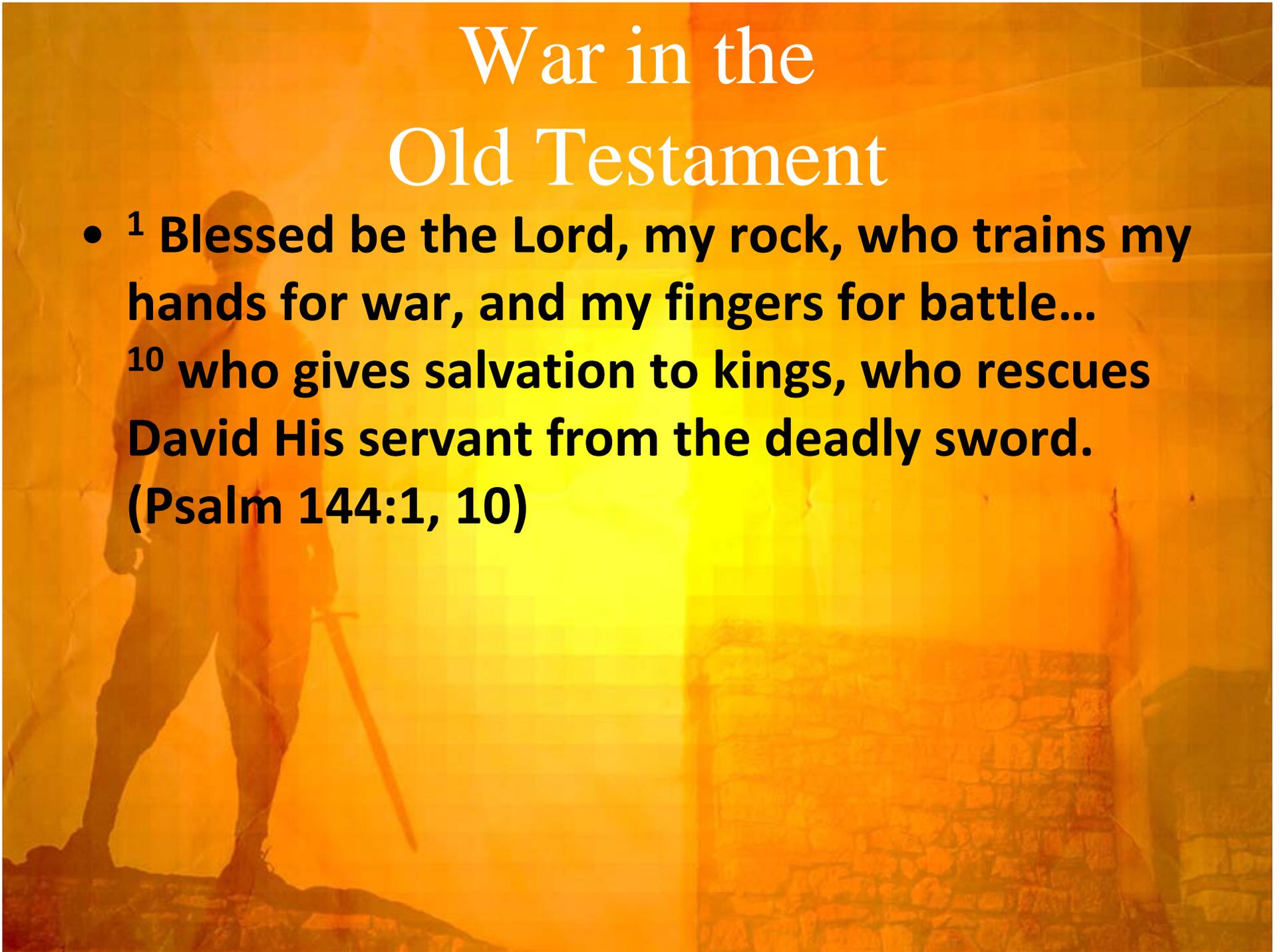


War in the Old Testament

- **³¹ For who is God besides the Lord? And who is the Rock except our God? ³² It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way blameless. ³³ He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; He enables me to stand on the heights. ³⁴ He trains my hands for war; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.
(Psalm 18:31-34)**

War in the Old Testament

- **¹ Blessed be the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle...
¹⁰ who gives salvation to kings, who rescues David His servant from the deadly sword.
(Psalm 144:1, 10)**



War in the Old Testament

- **¹³ Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us or for our adversaries?” ¹⁴ He said, “No; rather I indeed come now as commander of the army of the LORD.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, “What has my lord to say to his servant?” (Joshua 5:13-14)**

War in the Old Testament

- ¹² The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior...” ¹⁴ The LORD looked at him and said, “Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?” (Judges 6:12, 14)
- Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. (Zechariah 14:3)

War in the Old Testament

- **“And blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.”
(Genesis 14:20)**



War in the Old Testament

- ³² And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who by faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. (Hebrews 11:32-34)

War in the Old Testament

- **“The author of Hebrews explicitly referred to the military exploits of the judges and David and saw their actions not as expressions of ‘hardness of heart,’ but rather as demonstrations of living *faith* in God. These men of God...are set before the New Testament church as *positive* examples of faith, and their faith in this case was exhibited in their military valor. God clearly approved their ‘putting foreign armies to flight’ and their use of arms in the enforcement of justice.**

War in the Old Testament

- **This Hebrews text clearly shows that from a New Testament perspective the use of armed force is not inconsistent with true faith in God, and that in the divine scales of values, the enforcement of justice has a higher priority than nonviolence when these two values conflict.”**
– John Davis, *Evangelical Ethics*, pp. 215-216

Murder?

- **“You shall not murder.” (Exodus 20:13)**
- **Exodus 21: capital punishment/death penalty**
- **Exodus 22: killing for self-defense allowed**
- **“Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man.” (Genesis 9:6)**

Ecclesiastes 3

- **¹ There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a season for every event under heaven— ² a time to give birth and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted. ³ A time to kill and a time to heal; a time to tear down and a time to build up. ⁴ A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance. ⁵ A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones;**

Ecclesiastes 3

- **a time to embrace and a time to shun embracing. ⁶ A time to search and a time to give up as lost; a time to keep and a time to throw away. ⁷ A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; a time to be silent and a time to speak. ⁸ A time to love and a time to hate;**

Ecclesiastes 3

- **Hate evil, you who love the Lord...
(Psalm 97:10)**
- **I gain understanding from Your precepts;
therefore I hate every false way.
(Psalm 119:104)**
- **Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling
to what is good. (Romans 12:9)**

Ecclesiastes 3

- **a time for war and a time for peace.
(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)**



Defending Others

- **¹¹ Rescue those who are being taken away to death, and save those who are staggering to slaughter. ¹² If you say, “But we did not know this,” does not He who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not He who guards your life know you knew? Will He not repay each person according to what he has done? (Proverbs 24:11-12)**