

# The Bible Jesus Used

**A Gospel-Centered Glance at the Old Testament**

**Bethlehem Baptist Church, 2011–2012**  
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# Joshua at a Glance

Yahweh's Strategy for Taking the Land	1:1–8:29
Yahweh's Faithfulness in Giving the Land	8:30–21:45
Israel's Future in Yahweh's Land	22:1–24:33

# “Holy War” & A Loving God

## ❖ **Introduction: The Battle of Jericho**

❖ The Context: Yahweh is holy (Josh. 5:15)

❖ The Challenge: Josh. 6:21. Then they devoted all in the city to destruction, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys, with the edge of the sword.

❖ The Question: How do we reconcile this portrait of God?

# Yahweh's Judgment Wars of Annihilation

General	1. Yahweh fights
	2.
	3.
	4.
Nature	5.
Purpose	6.
Limits	7.
Army	8.
End	9.
Spoils	10.

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- ❖ **Num. 33:55–56**. But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those of them whom you let remain shall be as barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land where you dwell. And I will do to you as I thought to do to them.
- ❖ **Deut. 8:19–20**. And if you forget Yahweh your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. Like the nations that Yahweh makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of Yahweh your God.



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❖ **Deut. 7:9–10**. Know therefore that Yahweh your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, <sup>10</sup>and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face.

❖ **Deut. 9:5–6**. Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations Yahweh your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may confirm the word that Yahweh swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. <sup>6</sup>Know, therefore, that Yahweh your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people.

- ❖ John 3:16, 18, 36. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.... Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is **condemned already**.... Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but **the wrath of God remains on him**.
- ❖ Rom. 12:17–19. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, **“Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”**

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Limits	7. Yahweh alone initiates

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Spoils	10. Once #3 and #9 met, God's people enjoy spoils

# Theological Significance

- ❖ **Yahweh takes sin seriously and has declared war against all wickedness; judgment day is at hand.**
- ❖ **Joel 2:11. Yahweh utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful. For the day of Yahweh is great and very awesome; who can endure it?**
- ❖ **1 Thess. 5:2–3. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.**

- ❖ In love, God sent his messenger, Jesus, to proclaim good news—terms for peace.
- ❖ Isa. 52:7–8. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of Yahweh to Zion.
- ❖ Isa. 61:1–2. The Spirit of the Lord Yahweh is upon me, because Yahweh has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; **to proclaim the year of Yahweh’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God**; to comfort all who mourn.

- ❖ **Eph. 2:17–18. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.**

- ❖ **Rejecting God's terms of peace will result in the destruction (sacrifice) of the wicked.**
- ❖ **Against Egypt and her attempt to expand her empire into the north:**
  - ❖ **Jer. 46:10. That day is the day of the Lord Yahweh of hosts, a day of vengeance, to avenge himself on his foes. The sword shall devour and be sated and drink its fill of their blood. For the Lord Yahweh of hosts holds a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.**

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- ❖ **Against Egypt and her attempt to expand her empire into the north:**
- ❖ **Against Gog for attempting to destroy Israel.**
- ❖ **Ezek. 39:17–21. Speak to the birds of every sort and to all beasts of the field, “Assemble and come, gather from all around to the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you, a great sacrificial feast on the mountains of Israel, and you shall eat flesh and drink blood.... And you shall be filled at my table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all kinds of warriors.... And I will set my glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid on them.”**

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- ❖ **Against Egypt and her attempt to expand her empire into the north:**
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- ❖ **Heb. 10:26–27. For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.**

❖ **Through Christ's sacrifice, God's wrath can be removed and his support given.**

❖ **Rom. 5:9–10. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies were were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we were reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.**



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❖ **Rom. 5:9–10.**

❖ **Col. 2:13–15. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive with [Christ], having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.**

- ❖ **Jesus' kingdom is not of this world and will progress through prayer, persuasion, and suffering, not force.**
- ❖ **John 18:36. Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."**

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❖ **John 18:36.**

❖ **Acts 1:1, 6–8. In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach.... “So when they came together [the apostles] asked [Jesus], ‘Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’”**

❖ **Taking up the mission of Christ, the Church is engaged in a spiritual battle and called to proclaim peace, suffer for Christ's sake, and love everyone.**

❖ **Spiritual battle:**

❖ **1 Cor. 10:3–4. For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.**

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❖ **Spiritual battle:**

❖ **1 Cor. 10:3–4.**

❖ **Eph. 6:10–12. Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.**

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❖ **Terms of peace:**

❖ **Rom. 10:13–17. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” (see Isa. 52:7)**

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❖ **Terms of peace:**

❖ **Rom. 10:13–17.**

❖ **2 Cor. 5:18–20. All this [new creation] is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.**

- ❖ **Today physical conquest, defense, or subjugation is not part of the Church's mission, because Jew and gentile in Christ stand together as one people of God with no ties to *political* parties or provinces.**
- ❖ **Eph. 2:13–16. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ..., that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.**



- ❖ Physical ars today are not necessarily wrong but are about the defense and expansion of *human, earthly* kingdoms, not directly about Jesus' kingdom (though he controls all) or about God's people standing as his representatives to punish sin.
- ❖ Matt. 24:6, 13–14. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.... But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to the nations, and then the end will come.