

Dr. Tremper Longman, God is a Warrior, Session 1, Introduction

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Longman, God is a Warrior, Session 1, Introduction, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This excerpt introduces Dr. Tremper Longman's lecture series on the "Divine Warrior" theme in the Bible. Longman, a retired Old Testament professor, frames his analysis as a biblical-theological study, exploring how God's actions are described using various metaphors, including that of a warrior. He outlines five phases of this theme's development throughout scripture, from God's battles against Israel's enemies to Jesus's role as a warrior and ultimate victory over evil. The lecture will examine these phases, considering both historical context and theological implications, including the controversial aspects of the topic. Finally, the lecture will discuss the depiction of warfare in the Old Testament and its broader implications.

**2. 17 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Longman, God is a Warrior, Session 1 – Double click icon to
play in Windows media player or go to the
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link
there (Theology → God is a Warrior).**



**Longman_Warrior_
Session01.mp3**

3. Briefing Document

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. Tremper Longman's lecture on the Divine Warrior theme:

Briefing Document: Dr. Tremper Longman on the Divine Warrior Theme

Source: Excerpts from "Tremper_Warrior_EN_Session01A.pdf"

Date: 2024

Author: Dr. Tremper Longman

Topic: Introduction to the Divine Warrior Theme in the Bible

Overview:

This document summarizes the key points from Dr. Tremper Longman's introductory lecture on the "Divine Warrior" theme in the Bible. Longman, a retired Old Testament professor, introduces his lifelong fascination with this theme, framing it as a study in biblical theology, interwoven with literature and history. He argues that the concept of God as a warrior is a recurring and significant metaphor throughout Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, revealing crucial aspects of God's nature and actions. He emphasizes the importance of understanding God's self-revelation through his actions, as well as through the metaphors and similes used in the text.

Key Themes and Ideas:

1. **The Bible as Theology:** Longman emphasizes the theological nature of studying the Bible, seeing it as the place where God chooses to reveal himself to humanity. While acknowledging the literary and historical aspects, he focuses on understanding God's nature through his actions, particularly in the context of the Divine Warrior. He states, "Theology...is based on God's acts in history, in space and time."
2. **God's Self-Revelation through Metaphors:** Longman highlights the use of various metaphors and similes to describe God in the Old Testament, stating, "When the Old Testament talks about God, it often uses various metaphors and similes. And we could run through a whole list of them." He notes common metaphors like God as shepherd, father, king, and husband. He also points out more surprising metaphors, like the image in Psalm 78 of God waking as from a drunken sleep, which he says are meant to "get your attention." These metaphors, he explains,

are not to be taken literally, but to help us understand the complexities of God's nature.

3. **The Divine Warrior Metaphor:** Longman identifies the Divine Warrior as a major and recurring metaphor throughout the Bible, asserting, "One of the big metaphors of scripture when it comes to God is God as a warrior. And so, we're going to see that God reveals himself as a warrior, as I say, from the book of Genesis all the way to the book of Revelation." He argues that this is a significant way in which God chooses to reveal himself and his actions.
4. **Continuity and Development:** The study will explore both continuity and development of the Divine Warrior theme as it progresses from the Old Testament to the New Testament. The theme evolves across different phases, reflecting the unfolding nature of God's redemptive plan. Longman states, "We're going to see some continuity plus development in the unfolding of this theme as we move from the Old Testament to the New Testament."
5. **Five Phases of the Divine Warrior Theme:** Longman outlines five phases of the Divine Warrior theme that will be examined in detail:
 - **Phase 1: God Fights Against Israel's Flesh and Blood Enemies:** This is perhaps the best-known but most controversial aspect of the theme where God fights on behalf of Israel against their physical enemies.
 - **Phase 2: God Fights Against Israel:** This phase covers instances where God, as a warrior, fights *against* Israel due to their disobedience and sin.
 - **Phase 3: Future Deliverance:** The prophetic focus on God the warrior coming to deliver Israel from oppression, primarily during and after the exile.
 - **Phase 4: Jesus as Warrior:** The New Testament portrayal of Jesus as a warrior, but with the battle heightened and intensified toward spiritual powers and authorities.
 - **Phase 5: The Second Coming:** The final victorious return of Jesus as the ultimate warrior, where he defeats both human and spiritual evil, as seen in books like Revelation.
1. **Biblical Theology Approach:** Longman emphasizes the importance of a biblical theology approach to understanding the Divine Warrior theme. This involves examining the entire storyline of Scripture, seeing how the theme unfolds within the historical context and develops theologically.

2. **Importance of Context:** Longman emphasizes the importance of context, mentioning that before delving into the first phase, they will explore the context of warfare in the Old Testament, including what happens before, during, and after battles.

Significance:

Longman's introduction sets the stage for a deeper exploration of the Divine Warrior theme, which he argues is crucial for understanding God's character and actions throughout the Bible. The five-phase structure provides a framework for navigating this complex and at times controversial theme. His approach emphasizes that God's self-revelation is through a variety of methods and images, and that understanding them requires engaging with the biblical text as a whole. This introduction highlights that this study will wrestle with difficult texts, while also revealing the coherence of the divine plan of salvation as revealed in the Bible.

Next Steps (Based on the Lecture):

The next steps would be to delve into each of the five phases described by Longman, starting with an examination of warfare in the Old Testament, and then examining the first phase where God fights against Israel's flesh and blood enemies, and engaging in the theological and ethical implications.

4. God is a Warrior, Session 1, Introduction

God as Warrior: A Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 complete sentences.

1. What are the three ways Dr. Longman suggests we can study the Bible, and how are they related?
2. According to Dr. Longman, what is the most perfect revelation of God?
3. What is the purpose of metaphors when used to describe God in the Old Testament? Provide an example from the source.
4. What is the central theme Dr. Longman will explore throughout his lectures?
5. What are the five phases of the Divine Warrior theme, as identified by Dr. Longman?
6. Which of the five phases of the Divine Warrior theme is considered the most controversial today?
7. What is phase two of the Divine Warrior theme?
8. What shifted in the prophetic understanding of God as a warrior during and after the exile?
9. According to the source material, what kind of battle does Jesus wage as the Divine Warrior in the New Testament?
10. How does Dr. Longman describe the second coming of Jesus in relation to the Divine Warrior theme?

Answer Key

1. Dr. Longman identifies three ways to study the Bible: as literature, as history, and as theology. He argues that these are all intertwined because theology is based on God's actions in history, within space and time.
2. Dr. Longman says that the most perfect revelation of God is found in Jesus Christ. However, he also believes it is important to study the Old Testament to understand the theme of God as a warrior.

3. Metaphors are used to grab attention and force reflection on the aspects of God that the metaphor reveals. For example, Psalm 78 uses the metaphor of God awakening from the sleep of a drunk soldier, which gets us to think about God's power.
4. The central theme is the Divine Warrior theme, which is explored through a biblical-theological study focusing on how God reveals himself through scripture from Genesis to Revelation as a warrior.
5. The five phases of the Divine Warrior theme are: 1) God fights the flesh and blood enemies of Israel, 2) God fights against Israel, 3) God as a future warrior freeing Israel from oppression, 4) Jesus as a spiritual warrior, and 5) Jesus's decisive victory over evil in his second coming.
6. The first phase, where God fights the flesh and blood enemies of Israel, is considered the most controversial today.
7. In the second phase, God himself fights against Israel. This phase includes instances where God disciplines his people as a warrior.
8. During the exile and post-exilic period, the prophets began to portray God as a future warrior who would come and liberate Israel from their oppression.
9. In the New Testament, Jesus heightens and intensifies the battle, and the focus shifts to a battle against spiritual powers and authorities, rather than just earthly enemies.
10. The second coming of Jesus is described using images and language associated with God as a warrior, suggesting a final, decisive battle against both physical and spiritual evil.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the significance of studying the Old Testament for understanding the concept of God as a warrior, even when Christians believe that the most perfect revelation of God is found in Jesus Christ. How does the Old Testament conception of God as a warrior enrich our understanding of God's actions and character?
2. Analyze the five phases of the Divine Warrior theme as presented by Dr. Longman. In what ways do these phases represent a continuity and development of the theme across the Old and New Testaments? How does this progression deepen our understanding of God's actions?
3. Dr. Longman introduces the idea that the first phase of the Divine Warrior theme is the most controversial. Why might this be the case, and how does the development of the theme in subsequent phases attempt to address or complicate this controversy?
4. Compare and contrast the way God as a warrior is depicted in the Old Testament with the way Jesus is presented as a warrior in the New Testament. What aspects are similar, and what are the major differences in their respective battles and enemies?
5. Examine the use of metaphors in the Bible, specifically as it relates to the depiction of God. In what ways do the various metaphors used in the Old Testament shape our understanding of God, and how does the metaphor of God as a warrior contribute to this understanding?

Glossary of Key Terms

Biblical Theology: The study of theological themes and concepts as they develop within the context of the Bible, tracing their evolution across different books and time periods.

Divine Warrior Theme: A recurring motif in the Bible portraying God as a powerful warrior who battles against evil, injustice, and the enemies of his people.

Metaphor: A figure of speech that uses an image or concept to represent something else, creating a symbolic meaning. In the Bible, metaphors are often used to describe abstract or complex concepts, such as God's attributes or actions.

Exodus: The biblical account of the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt under the leadership of Moses. This is a key event in the Old Testament where God demonstrates his power and protection of his people.

Exile: A significant period in the history of Israel where the nation was taken into captivity in Babylon. The exile period led to reflection and change in their understanding of God.

Post-Exilic Period: The period following the return of the Israelites to their land after their exile in Babylon. This period is marked by the rebuilding of Jerusalem and a renewed focus on religious practices.

Revelation: The act of God disclosing himself and his will to humanity. In the Bible, revelation can take various forms, including direct communication, divine acts, and inspired writings.

Spiritual Powers and Authorities: A term used in the New Testament to refer to demonic forces and evil entities that operate in the spiritual realm, representing a battle against unseen adversaries.

Second Coming: A Christian belief that Jesus will return to earth in the future, an event often associated with the final judgment and the establishment of God's kingdom.

Covenant: A sacred agreement or pact, often between God and his people, outlining mutual obligations and promises.

5. FAQs on Longman, God is a Warrior, Session 1, Introduction, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions About God as a Warrior in the Bible

1. **What is the "Divine Warrior" theme, and why is it important to study?** The "Divine Warrior" theme is a recurring motif throughout the Bible where God is depicted as a warrior engaging in battles. It's important to study because it reveals how God discloses himself through his actions and through potent metaphors that help us understand his nature and his activity in history. Examining this theme helps us see how God engages with evil and ultimately works towards the redemption of his people. This isn't just about physical battles, but also spiritual warfare.
2. **How does the Bible use metaphors and similes to describe God, and why does the warrior metaphor stand out?** The Bible employs various metaphors and similes to describe God, such as a shepherd, father, king, and husband. These help us understand different aspects of his relationship with his people. The warrior metaphor stands out because it's a more shocking and surprising depiction, designed to capture our attention and provoke deeper thought about God's strength, justice, and commitment to fighting against evil. It conveys God's active role in confronting injustice and his commitment to protecting and delivering his people.
3. **What are the five phases of the Divine Warrior theme as described in the sources, and how do they unfold throughout the Bible?** The five phases of the Divine Warrior theme are:
 - **Phase 1:** God fights against the flesh and blood enemies of Israel.
 - **Phase 2:** God fights against Israel.
 - **Phase 3:** God is prophesied to come in the future as a warrior to free his people from oppression.
 - **Phase 4:** Jesus comes as a warrior, heightening the battle against spiritual powers and authorities.

- **Phase 5:** At his second coming, Jesus will decisively win the battle against both physical human evil and spiritual evil. These phases demonstrate a progression from physical battles to spiritual ones, culminating in a decisive victory over all evil. They are not always strictly chronological, and there are overlaps throughout the biblical narrative.
1. **Why is the first phase, where God fights the flesh and blood enemies of Israel, considered the most controversial, and how will this issue be addressed?** The first phase is often seen as controversial due to the implications of God directly participating in physical battles and warfare. There are ethical and theological questions about violence committed in God's name. The approach will address these controversial aspects in depth, exploring the ethical and theological dimensions later on. This study aims to understand the biblical context and then to reflect on how that should inform our view of God.
 2. **Beyond physical warfare, how does the Divine Warrior theme shift towards spiritual warfare?** The theme shifts towards spiritual warfare, particularly in the New Testament, with the arrival of Jesus. While there are physical battles and earthly oppressors, Jesus's ministry focuses the battle on spiritual powers and authorities. He comes as a warrior to fight against the root of evil, not just its earthly manifestations. This demonstrates that the ultimate battle is not just about physical conflict, but overcoming the powers that seek to corrupt and enslave people.
 3. **How does Jesus fit into the Divine Warrior theme, and how does he intensify the battle?** Jesus is the embodiment of the Divine Warrior in the New Testament. He intensifies the battle by confronting spiritual forces of darkness. He is portrayed as challenging the authority of evil spiritual powers, and his life, death, and resurrection are part of this larger battle. He also will return to decisively deal with evil.
 4. **What does the theme of God as a warrior tell us about God's nature and his relationship with humanity?** The Divine Warrior theme reveals God's commitment to justice, his power, and his active engagement in human history. It also shows his deep love for his people and his unwavering commitment to rescue them from oppression and evil. While it uses the violent imagery of warfare, it shows that God is dedicated to fighting for his people. It highlights that God is not passive, but actively participates in the struggle against evil on their behalf.

5. **What is the overall goal in studying the Divine Warrior theme and how does it relate to biblical theology?** The goal of this study is to explore how God reveals himself in scripture through his actions. This approach allows us to see how God engages with the world and also understand the broader narrative of salvation history. The study of the Divine Warrior theme is an exercise in biblical theology. This means it focuses on understanding how the theme unfolds throughout the Bible and what this means for our understanding of God. It seeks to reveal the interconnectedness of God's actions and character.