

**Dr. Tremper Longman, God is a Warrior, Session 4,  
Phase 3: God Saves Israel,  
Phase 4: Jesus Spiritual Warfare  
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 4, Phase 3: God Saves Israel, Phase 4: Jesus Spiritual Warfare, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

**Dr. Tremper Longman's lecture** on God as a warrior is structured in five phases. **Phases one and two** cover God's actions against Israel's physical enemies and then against Israel itself. **Phase three** focuses on Old Testament prophets' visions of God's future deliverance of Israel from oppression. **Phase four** explains how Jesus intensified spiritual warfare, ultimately triumphing through his death and resurrection. **Phase five** describes Jesus's second coming to achieve final victory over all evil.

**2. 17 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Longman, God is a Warrior, Session 4 – 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\_  
Session04.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document

#### Briefing Doc: God as a Warrior in Scripture

This document summarizes the main themes and ideas presented by Dr. Tremper Longman in Session 4 of his teaching on "God as a Warrior." The session focuses on five distinct phases, highlighting the development of the warrior motif throughout the Bible.

#### Phase 1 & 2: God fights for and against Israel (Overlapping)

This phase encompasses instances where God acts as a warrior on behalf of Israel against their human enemies. It also includes times when God fights against Israel due to their disobedience. These phases, not strictly sequential, demonstrate the conditional nature of God's warrior role in relation to Israel's faithfulness.

#### Phase 3: God Saves Israel from Their Oppressors (Exile and Post-Exile)

During the exile and post-exilic period, prophets like Daniel, Zechariah, and Malachi received visions from God promising deliverance from oppression. This phase is marked by the anticipation of God's return as a divine warrior to liberate His people.

- **Daniel 7:** This apocalyptic vision depicts four terrifying beasts representing oppressive human kingdoms. A "Son of Man" figure, riding a cloud and approaching the "Ancient of Days" (God), receives authority and dominion, signifying the eventual triumph of God's kingdom over earthly powers. This passage is significant as it anticipates the coming of Christ.

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days, was led into his presence, and was given authority, glory, sovereign power." (Daniel 7:13-14)

- **Zechariah 14:** This chapter describes a future "Day of the Lord," a day of divine judgment and warfare, where God will fight against the nations who have oppressed Jerusalem. Ultimately, living water will flow from Jerusalem, symbolizing God's blessing and restoration.

"Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations as he fights on a day of battle." (Zechariah 14:3)

- **Malachi 4:** God promises to destroy the wicked and bring healing to those who revere Him. The "Son of Righteousness" will rise, echoing the imagery of a victorious warrior king.

"But for you who revere my name, the Son of Righteousness will rise with healing in its rays, and you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. Then you will trample on the wicked." (Malachi 4:2-3)

#### **Phase 4: Jesus Heightens and Intensifies Spiritual Warfare**

John the Baptist anticipates the coming Messiah as a warrior figure who will judge and destroy the wicked. However, Jesus' ministry focuses on healing, exorcism, and preaching the good news. This shift indicates that Jesus has elevated the battle to the spiritual realm, where victory is achieved through self-sacrifice rather than physical force.

"Put away your sword... My way is to the cross." (Jesus to Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane)

Paul, in Colossians 2:15 and Ephesians 4:8, utilizes military language to depict Jesus' crucifixion and ascension as a triumph over spiritual powers and authorities. This "deus victor" model portrays Jesus' death as a victorious act that disarms and defeats the forces of evil.

#### **Phase 5: Jesus Comes Again to Win the Final Battle**

This phase describes Jesus' second coming as the ultimate victory over all evil, both human and spiritual. Revelation 19 depicts Jesus as a warrior king returning on a white horse, wielding a sword and leading the armies of heaven to defeat the Beast, the False Prophet, and their followers. This final battle marks the culmination of God's plan to eradicate evil and establish His eternal kingdom.

"Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter... On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: King of kings and Lord of lords." (Revelation 19:15-16)

#### **Conclusion**

Dr. Longman's analysis reveals the progression of the warrior motif throughout scripture, culminating in the final victory of Jesus Christ. This understanding informs both theological and ethical considerations, shaping our understanding of God's character and our role in battling against evil in the world. It emphasizes the spiritual nature of the ultimate conflict and points to the hope of ultimate victory through Jesus Christ.

## 4. God is a Warrior, Session 4, Phase 3: God Saves Israel, Phase 4: Jesus Spiritual Warfare

### God as a Warrior: A Study Guide

#### Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. How does Dr. Longman organize the phases of God as a warrior in the Bible? Are these phases strictly chronological?
2. What is the significance of the sea and the sea beasts in Daniel's vision in Chapter 7?
3. What is the primary message of Daniel 7, and how does this message resonate with contemporary audiences?
4. Explain the symbolism of the "Ancient of Days" and the "one like a Son of Man" in Daniel 7. How does this passage foreshadow the New Testament understanding of Christ?
5. How does Zechariah 14 depict the future intervention of God as a warrior? What are some key symbols and events in this chapter?
6. What is the message of Malachi 4 regarding God's future actions? How does this passage connect with the concept of the "Day of the Lord"?
7. How does John the Baptist's message about the coming Messiah align with the expectations of earlier prophets?
8. What is Dr. Longman's interpretation of Jesus' response to John the Baptist's question, "Are you the one, or should we expect another?"
9. How does Paul, in Colossians 2:13-15 and Ephesians 4:8, use military language to describe Christ's work?
10. According to Dr. Longman, how does the Book of Revelation depict the culmination of God's role as a warrior?

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. Dr. Longman identifies five phases of God as a warrior, focusing on how God fights against humanity's enemies, Israel's enemies, Israel itself, spiritual forces, and finally, all evil at Christ's second coming. These phases are not strictly

chronological but rather thematic and illustrative of God's actions throughout history.

2. The sea in Daniel 7 represents chaos and evil, while the sea beasts symbolize anti-creation forces. Emerging from the sea, the beasts represent powerful and oppressive kingdoms that threaten God's people.
3. The core message of Daniel 7 is that despite appearances, God remains in control and will ultimately triumph over evil. This message provides hope and encouragement for those facing oppression and challenges.
4. The "Ancient of Days" symbolizes God, the ultimate judge and ruler, attended by countless spiritual beings. "One like a Son of Man" riding a cloud signifies a divine figure, foreshadowing Christ. The New Testament identifies this figure with Jesus, highlighting his authority and dominion.
5. Zechariah 14 portrays God's future intervention as a warrior, culminating in a cosmic battle where God fights against the nations that have oppressed Jerusalem. Key symbols include the splitting of the Mount of Olives, the plague that inflicts God's enemies, and the flow of living water from Jerusalem.
6. Malachi 4 proclaims the coming "Day of the Lord," a time of judgment when the wicked will be destroyed, and God's people will be delivered. The passage emphasizes God's power and justice, connecting with earlier prophetic pronouncements of God's ultimate victory.
7. John the Baptist's message about the Messiah echoes the expectations of prophets like Daniel, Zechariah, and Malachi, who envisioned a future divine warrior who would deliver God's people and vanquish their enemies.
8. Dr. Longman interprets Jesus' response to John the Baptist as confirmation that he is the promised Messiah but that his mission involves a heightened and intensified battle against spiritual forces. Jesus' ministry focuses on healing, exorcism, and preaching the good news, ultimately leading to his sacrificial death on the cross.
9. In Colossians 2:13-15, Paul describes Christ's death on the cross as a triumph over spiritual powers and authorities, using the imagery of disarming and public spectacle. In Ephesians 4:8, Paul cites Psalm 68, a divine warrior hymn, to depict Christ's ascension as a victorious procession where he takes captives and bestows gifts upon his people.

10. Revelation depicts the culmination of God's role as a warrior in the second coming of Christ. Revelation 19 vividly portrays Jesus returning as a conquering king, waging war against earthly and spiritual forces of evil, ultimately establishing his eternal kingdom.

## Essay Questions

1. Analyze the development of the concept of God as a warrior throughout the Old Testament. What are the key texts and events that shape this understanding, and how does this concept evolve over time?
2. Compare and contrast the depiction of God as a warrior in the Old Testament with the portrayal of Jesus as a warrior in the New Testament. What are the similarities and differences, and how do these depictions reflect the respective contexts and theological emphases of each testament?
3. Explore the ethical implications of the concept of God as a warrior. How can this concept be reconciled with Christian values of peace, love, and forgiveness? Discuss the challenges and potential interpretations.
4. Examine the symbolism of the divine warrior in the Book of Revelation. How does Revelation employ imagery and language from the Old Testament to depict Christ's final victory over evil? Analyze the significance of this portrayal for the book's overall message and for Christian eschatology.
5. Considering Dr. Longman's five phases of God as a warrior, analyze how this concept might offer hope and encouragement to individuals and communities facing various forms of oppression or suffering in the contemporary world.

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Ancient of Days:** A title for God in Daniel 7, emphasizing his eternity, wisdom, and authority as judge.
- **Apocalyptic:** A genre of literature characterized by symbolic visions and revelations concerning the end times, judgment, and divine intervention in history.
- **Chaff:** A metaphor used in the Bible to represent the wicked or those who reject God, destined for destruction.
- **Day of the Lord:** A prophetic term referring to a future time of divine judgment and intervention, often associated with God's actions as a warrior.
- **Deus Victor Model:** A theological understanding of the atonement where Christ's death on the cross is seen as a victory over Satan and the forces of evil.
- **Divine Warrior:** A concept of God as a powerful warrior who fights on behalf of his people and against evil.
- **Exile:** The period in biblical history when the Israelites were forcibly removed from their homeland and taken captive to Babylon.
- **Intertestamental Period:** The period between the completion of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament, marked by various Jewish writings and developments.
- **One like a Son of Man:** A figure in Daniel 7 who receives authority and dominion from the Ancient of Days, foreshadowing the New Testament understanding of Christ.
- **Son of Righteousness:** A messianic title in Malachi 4, associated with healing and deliverance.
- **Threshing Floor:** A metaphor used in the Bible to represent the place of judgment, where the wheat (righteous) is separated from the chaff (wicked).
- **Winnowing Fork:** An agricultural tool used to separate grain from chaff, used metaphorically in the Bible to represent God's judgment.

## 5. FAQs on Longman, God is a Warrior, Session 4, Phase 3: God Saves Israel, Phase 4: Jesus Spiritual Warfare, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

### FAQ: God as a Warrior in the Bible

#### 1. How does the Old Testament depict God as a warrior?

The Old Testament frequently depicts God as a warrior, actively engaging in battles to protect and deliver His people, Israel. This is evident in narratives like the Exodus, where God fights against Pharaoh and the Egyptian army. Additionally, divine warrior hymns, such as Psalm 68, explicitly praise God's power and victory in battle.

#### 2. What are the different phases of God's warrior role in the Bible?

Dr. Tremper Longman identifies five phases of God's warrior role:

- **Phase 1:** God fights for Israel against their human enemies.
- **Phase 2:** God fights against Israel when they disobey Him.
- **Phase 3:** God promises to return as a warrior to save Israel from their oppressors, as envisioned by prophets like Daniel, Zechariah, and Malachi.
- **Phase 4:** Jesus intensifies the battle, shifting the focus to spiritual powers and authorities, culminating in his death and resurrection.
- **Phase 5:** Jesus will return again to achieve ultimate victory over all evil, both human and spiritual, as depicted in Revelation.

#### 3. How do the visions in Daniel 7 foreshadow God's future victory?

Daniel 7 presents a vision of four beasts representing oppressive kingdoms. A "Son of Man" figure, representing Jesus, arrives riding a cloud and receives authority from the Ancient of Days, symbolizing God the Father. This vision anticipates Jesus' ultimate triumph over evil kingdoms and the establishment of his everlasting kingdom.

#### 4. How does John the Baptist's message connect to God as a warrior?

John the Baptist preached repentance in anticipation of the Messiah's arrival. He used imagery of winnowing grain and burning chaff, drawing upon the prophetic visions of God's judgment and purification. This language connects to the warrior imagery, portraying the Messiah as one who will separate the righteous from the wicked.



### **5. Did John the Baptist misunderstand Jesus' mission?**

While John the Baptist expected a Messiah who would immediately enact judgment and overthrow earthly powers, Jesus instead focused on spiritual warfare through his ministry, death, and resurrection. However, John's message was not wrong, but rather reflected a partial understanding. Like many prophets, he spoke better than he consciously knew, anticipating the ultimate victory that will be realized at Jesus' second coming.

### **6. How does Jesus' death and resurrection connect to the warrior theme?**

Though seemingly a defeat, Jesus' death on the cross is presented as a triumph in Colossians and Ephesians. The imagery of "disarming powers and authorities" and "taking captives" depicts Jesus' victory over spiritual forces through his sacrifice.

### **7. How does Revelation 19 depict Jesus as the ultimate warrior?**

Revelation 19 offers a vivid portrayal of Jesus returning as a conquering warrior on a white horse. He leads the armies of heaven, wielding a sword to judge and wage war against the beast, the false prophet, and earthly kings. This scene depicts the final battle and ultimate victory of good over evil.

### **8. What is the significance of understanding God as a warrior for Christians today?**

Understanding God as a warrior offers hope and encouragement to believers facing trials and oppression. It reminds us that God actively fights for his people, even when the battle is invisible or seems lost. It also emphasizes the ultimate victory of good over evil, motivating us to persevere in faith and fight against injustice in our own lives.