

1. Last week I taught in part 2Ti 2:1-3 by way of the *Doctrine of the Soldier*. When the clock tolled 11:30, we were about to see what we could learn about the Cherethites and the Pelethites.
2. Before we begin our analysis of the *Soldier*, I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.

NIV

2Ti 2:1 You then, my son, be strong in the **grace** that is in Christ Jesus.

2Ti 2:2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many **witnesses** entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

2Ti 2:3 Endure hardship with us like a good **soldier** of Christ Jesus.

Comments:

1. I think the best way to study these three verses is to review the three active words: grace, witnesses and soldier.
2. I want to review some of that learned last week and then begin new material on page four.

Doctrine of the Soldier

1. The Israelites were not intended by God to be a warlike people with a large standing army at the federal level.
2. They found it necessary to make adequate preparations for their defense against hostile attacks. They did this by requiring the various tribes to maintain fighting forces and universal military training for all males over 20 years.
3. God is frequently called the Lord of hosts.
 - 3.1 The Word for Host is **TSAVA** and means army; God is often called then the Lord of the Armies. The word translated soldier or soldiers in the New Testament is **STRAIOTES**:

Mat 8:9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

Mat 27:27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers.

Mat 28:12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,

Luk 23:36 And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar,

Joh 19:2 And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe,

Joh 19:23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.

Joh 19:24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

Joh 19:32 Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

Joh 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

Acts 10:7 And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;

Acts 12:4 And when he had apprehended him, he put Peter in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Passover to bring him forth to the people.

Acts 12:6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

Acts 12:18 Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter.

Acts 21:32 Who immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down unto them: and when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they left beating of Paul.

Acts 21:35 And when he came upon the stairs, so it was, that he was borne of the soldiers for the violence of the people.

Acts 23:10 And when there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring him into the castle.

Acts 23:23 And he called unto him two centurions, saying, Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea, and horsemen threescore and ten, and spearmen two hundred, at the third hour of the night;

Acts 23:31 Then the soldiers, as it was commanded them, took Paul, and brought him by night to Antipatris.

Acts 27:42 And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape.

Acts 28:16 And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him.

2Ti 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2Ti 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

3.2 Keep in mind war is conducted by soldiers. Their job is to display preparedness thus avoiding war.

4. The first recorded use of armed forces in the history of the Jews is that of Abraham's conflict with the king of Elam and his confederates (Genesis chapter 14), in which Abraham displayed heroic military leadership with a small band of soldiers. Gen 14:8-16
5. Military organization of the Jews began with the Exodus from Egypt. The Exodus generation was a nation with Moses as its national leader. Israel became a race when Abram crossed the river but they were not a nation until they were called out of Egypt some 2,000,000 in number. Gen 12:1-3
6. It was not so much, that they were armed for warfare as that they were arranged by tribes and divisions as a body of troops for the march through the wilderness. Interestingly, Israel was directed around warlike Philistia.
7. Except for the Levites, men of 20 years of age and older who were fit to go to war were assigned a post in the army. Num 1:3
8. Certain individuals were exempt from military service: those who were newly married, those who had built a new home or planted a vineyard, the fearful and fainthearted. Deu 20:5-8
9. As footmen in the desert their weapons were the simple arms for attack and defense i.e. a sword, a shield, a spear, sling-shots and bows.
10. It is evident that their journeyings in the wilderness prepared them for the discipline and tactics of a military company. Under the brilliant leadership of Joshua and following the conquest of Canaan, there was further development of military organization, strategy, and equipment.
11. God in His grace actions often however put Israel to the test so that they would never think they had succeeded in their own strength. Examples:
the hand of Moses, (see Exo 17:11-Amalekites),
Joshua and the battle of Jericho,
And Gideon and his small band of courageous men.
12. United action of the armed forces was sometimes jeopardized, however, by tribal jealousies and rivalries which threatened the national solidarity. Num 32:6-25

13. Individual tribes generally defended their own territory and people; only great emergencies united the armies of the various tribes in common action. Under the Theocracy, the Government functioned not unlike that proscribed under the Articles of the Confederacy.

14. There was no regular permanent Federal army at this time. When emergencies arose, God raised up a leader who summoned the men of Israel to war against their enemies, and when the exigency passed the forces were returned to the various tribes.

15. Provisions for the army were the responsibility of each tribe. The soldiers' pay generally consisted only of supplies, plus a portion of the spoil. Defining the rules for division of "spoils" was early-on a problem. After the defeat of the Midianites rules were established. Num 31:21-54

16. It was not until the monarchy that Israel had a professional or standing army. There was universal military training and then the men were to serve certain active duty time and then they were returned to their tribes apparently as reserves.

17. Saul and David had bands of select warriors, the nuclei of which served as the kings' bodyguards. David developed a national militia of 12 regiments, each of which was called up for duty for one month in the year under their appointed officers.

18. Over the entire army there was a commander-in-chief or "captain of the host" (1Sa 14:47-50; 2Sa 24:2), a role only rarely assumed by the king himself after Saul's reign.

19. Samuel had warned the leaders of Israel that a professional soldiery would be needed under a monarchy. 1Sa 8:10-12

20. But the severe oppression of the mighty Philistines necessitated systematic military preparations on the part of King Saul to withstand invasions and to free the people from their heavy yoke of bondage, as well as to achieve a national unity in Israel.

21. General Joab of David's army, though rough and unscrupulous, was well known for his military genius. His tactical brilliance revolutionized Israel's warfare, particularly his skill in the art of siege warfare which he taught David's soldiers.

22. Although peace generally prevailed during Solomon's reign, there was no diminution of the armed forces.

22.1 Many cities resembled fortresses and required strong garrisons for their defense. Solomon disregarded the divine prohibition of horses. Deu 17:16; 1Ki 10:26

23. Solomon added vast numbers of horses and chariots to the army's equipment, and later lancers and mounted archers were also added.

24. Palestine's hilly interior was not suited for the use of chariots, but as the foreign relations of Israel extended in the direction of Syria and Egypt, it was thought advantageous and militarily necessary to employ chariots against enemy forces, especially in the "flat plains regions." God's prohibition against the chariot and horse cavalry was to avoid the arrogance of Israel and the tendency to think as the Egyptian.

25. But this proved to be an expensive and often impractical addition to Israel's army. The oppressive cost and the forced military service and labor created intense dissatisfaction, eventually contributing to the disruption of the kingdom.

26. Foreign troops, such as the Cherethites and Pelethites, mainly of Philistine origin, were sometimes hired as mercenaries.

26.1 Philistia would be punished for their indiscretions, but in contrast many were used in David's army.

27. Let's see what the Scriptures reveal about David's special forces.

1Sa 30:7 And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David.

1Sa 30:8 And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

1Sa 30:9 So David went, he and the six hundred men that were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed.

1Sa 30:10 But David pursued, he and four hundred men: for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor.

1Sa 30:11 And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he did eat; and they made him drink water;

1Sa 30:12 And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs, and two clusters of raisins: and when he had eaten, his spirit came again to him: for he had eaten no bread, nor drunk any water, three days and three nights.

1Sa 30:13 And David said unto him, To whom belondest thou? and whence art thou? And he said, I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick.

1Sa 30:14 We made an invasion upon the south of the Cherethites, and upon the coast which belongeth to Judah, and upon the south of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire.

1Sa 30:15 And David said to him, Canst thou bring me down to this company? And he said, Swear unto me by God, that thou wilt neither kill me, nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring thee down to this company.

1Sa 30:16 And when he had brought him down, behold, they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah.

1Sa 30:17 And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day: and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled.

1Sa 30:18 And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives.

2Sa 8:13 And David became famous after he returned from striking down eighteen thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.

2Sa 8:14 He put garrisons throughout Edom, and all the Edomites became subject to David. The LORD gave David victory wherever he went.

2Sa 8:15 David reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all his people.

2Sa 8:16 Joab son of Zeruiah was over the army; Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was recorder;

2Sa 8:17 Zadok son of Ahitub and Ahimelech son of Abiathar were priests; Seraiah was secretary;

2Sa 8:18 Benaiah son of Jehoiada was over the Kerethites and Pelethites; and David's sons were royal advisers.

2Sa 15:14 Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin upon us and put the city to the sword."

2Sa 15:15 The king's officials answered him, "Your servants are ready to do whatever our lord the king chooses."

2Sa 15:16 The king set out, with his entire household following him; but he left ten concubines to take care of the palace.

2Sa 15:17 So the king set out, with all the people following him, and they halted at a place some distance away.

2Sa 15:18 All his men marched past him, along with all the Kerethites and Pelethites; and all the six hundred Gittites who had accompanied him from Gath marched before the king.

28. There were revolts against all of the Kings but especially in David, a type of Christ. Sheba's Revolt begins an example of many. Take note there will be many revolts against Christ and his many ambassadors.

29. Sheba's revolt following Absalom's successful coup seem to be only one of many.

2Sa 20:1 Now a troublemaker named Sheba son of Bicri, a Benjamite, happened to be there. He sounded the trumpet and shouted, "We have no share in David, no part in Jesse's son! Every man to his tent, O Israel!"

2Sa 20:2 So all the men of Israel deserted David to follow Sheba son of Bicri. But the men of Judah stayed by their king all the way from the Jordan to Jerusalem.

2Sa 20:3 When David returned to his palace in Jerusalem, he took the ten concubines he had left to take care of the palace and put them in a house under guard. He provided for them, but did not lie with them. They were kept in confinement till the day of their death, living as widows.

2Sa 20:4 Then the king said to Amasa, "Summon the men of Judah to come to me within three days, and be here yourself."

2Sa 20:5 But when Amasa went to summon Judah, he took longer than the time the king had set for him.

2Sa 20:6 David said to Abishai, "Now Sheba son of Bicri will do us more harm than Absalom did. Take your master's men and pursue him, or he will find fortified cities and escape from us."

2Sa 20:7 So Joab's men and the Kerethites and Pelethites and all the mighty warriors went out under the command of Abishai. They marched out from Jerusalem to pursue Sheba son of Bicri.

2Sa 20:23 Joab was over Israel's entire army; Benaiah son of Jehoiada was over the Kerethites and Pelethites;

End Lesson

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