

Questions

1. Have you ever had a conversation with someone about the gospel who had questions about warfare in the Old Testament?
2. How would you explain divine providence to a younger believer? How has your understanding of divine providence grown or changed from studying Esther?
3. Like other Jewish feasts, Purim was intended to help God's people remember another act of His deliverance. What do you do (or could you start to do) to regularly remind yourself of gospel truths and your identity in Christ?
4. If God rules over all His creation, including over earthly rulers, and providence means that he governs the course of everyday life, can we fully detach God from wars? Why or why not?
5. What are some of the ways that we see God as a warrior in Scripture?
6. How did Jesus bring an end to the kind of Yahweh-led wars that we read about in the Old Testament (both for and against Israel)?
7. Consider Revelation 19 and 20. Who is the rider on the white horse who judges with justice, makes war, and crushes Satan's final rebellion? What does that mean for believers in Jesus?



A Story of Providence

Our Warrior King

Esther 8:3-10:3

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The book of Esther ends with the establishment of Purim, a glorious celebration that is to be repeated annually as a remembrance of God's powerful deliverance of His people. But the closing chapters may also raise the question of God's relationship to the wars that we see in the Old Testament.

Background: Yahweh is a warrior (Exodus 14:13 – 15:3)

*After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

Mordecai's Edict (8:3-17)

God as Warrior

An Extension of God's Providence

Against Enemies of the Jews

The Success of Jewish Resistance (9:1-17)

Against Faithless Jews

Against Sin and Death

Establishing Purim (9:18-32)

Against Spiritual Powers

**The Great and Eternal Celebration of His Victory and Our
Deliverance**