

The Way of the Cross

The Lord of Hosts

The battle belongs to the LORD of Hosts (1 Samuel 1:10-18; Matthew 28:1-10).

We all face battles we cannot finish or win on our own, whether it is in our workplace, relationships, finances, physical or mental health, sin or destructive habits, etc. Thankfully, the heart and nature of God is to fight for us. He is *Yahweh Tsabaoth* – the LORD of Hosts, or the LORD of angel armies. This is seen most significantly in Jesus' victory over death on the cross – the central and paramount event of all history – in His resurrection from the tomb (1 Corinthians 15:56-57). Jesus experienced what we deserved and gives us what only He could give: abundant, eternal victory and life. The LORD of Hosts goes *with* us and fights *for* us (Deuteronomy 20:2-4), just as He did for David against Goliath. To embrace God as the *Yahweh Tsabaoth*, we must know God, trust Him, and step out in confidence. When we do, we fight *from* victory and not *for* victory!

VISION FOR THIS WEEK

To know and trust God as our LORD of Hosts who fights for us, and wins.

GET THINGS STARTED

The concept and imagery of *David versus Goliath* is seen and experienced all around us. What examples of a *David versus Goliath* situation immediately come to your mind, whether in sports, politics, business, personally, etc.? Did the underdog win, or are they winning?

GO DEEPER WITH SCRIPTURE

1. What battle was Hannah facing in 1 Samuel 1:10-18 when she cries out to God as the LORD of Hosts? What was Hannah powerless to do, and what does this reveal about the types of battles God fights for us?
2. What does 1 Corinthians 15:26, 56-57 reveal about Jesus and what He accomplished through His death and resurrection? Why is this the central and most significant event of Scripture? What does it mean for us as followers of Jesus today? What did Jesus do that we were powerless to do on our own?
3. In 1 Samuel 17:41-51 when David faces Goliath in battle, what did David do and what did God do? What was still required of David, even though the LORD of Hosts won the battle? What does this possibly mean for us today?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What battle or struggle are you facing right now that you need God to fight for you? What does victory look like? What might God be asking of you, even though He is fighting for you and has already won the victory?
2. What does it possibly mean for you to fight *from* victory instead of *for* victory? What shift needs to happen for you to continually live in this perspective?
3. What is a step you can take this week to embrace God as the LORD of Hosts?

PRAYER AS A GROUP

As a group, take time in a posture and attitude of prayer to declare that God is the LORD of Hosts. Verbally thank Him for fighting for you, for winning the battle (even if you have not experienced that victory yet). Ask Him to shift your thinking or perspective to fighting *from* victory instead of *for* victory, and ask Him to show you more of what this means. Ask Him to show you what is your part in the battle, and what is His part.