

The Art of Spiritual Warfare Part 9 of 10: Fight the LORD's Battles! America's Judgment

(Presented in 2016)

The following text is based on a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFaA39EBuFo>

***Portions of the video message have been edited to present a written document. All the Scripture verses are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted and are in the red text. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

We have a lot of ground to cover, so we're just going to get right to it. 1 Chronicles 5:18—**The sons of Reuben, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh had forty-four thousand seven hundred and sixty valiant men, men able to bear shield and sword, to shoot with the bow, and skillful in war, who went to war.** This is obviously describing the specific tribes that took their inheritance on the east side of Israel. They were the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. We are told these 44,760 mighty warriors were skilled in the art of warfare.

Continuing in 1 Chronicles 5:19-20—**¹⁹ They made war with the Hagrites, Jetur, Naphish, and Nodab. ²⁰ And they were helped against them, and the Hagrites were delivered into their hand, and all who were with them, for they cried out to God in the battle. He heeded their prayer, because they put their trust in Him.**

That is the formula for victory in our faith. When we are in the heat of a terrifying battle that is raging against us, we do not retreat or give up ground. Instead, we push forward and advance. How do we do that when things look impossible, and the odds seem to be stacked against us? We get on our knees and cry out to God. We put our trust in Him.

I'm going to tell you something. When you get up in the morning, and your flesh is waging war against you, and the demonic entities and forces are coming against you to destroy you because you take the name of Yeshua, the formula is this; get on your knees and cry out to God.

That formula has reverberated throughout Scripture over and over and over again. That is the principle we need to apply to the situations in our lives; we are crying out to God, praying to Him, and putting our trust in Him. You've heard me say it before, and I will say it again; the deeper you get into a relationship with Yeshua by making Him the LORD of your life, the more you're going to be coming up against warfare.

I'm going to tell you right now; the closer you get to Yeshua, the more you are going to value prayer. There is power in prayer. Do not let the adversary tell you different. Don't let Satan tell you that prayer is just words that have no power or value. When you cry out to the LORD of heaven and earth, the one who sacrificed and gave Himself for us, there is power. You need to stand in that power, or as I would say; kneel in that power because God is willing to help.

Moving on to 1 Chronicles 5:21—²¹ Then [Israel] they took away their [The enemies] livestock—fifty thousand of their camels, two hundred and fifty thousand of their sheep, and two thousand of their donkeys—also one hundred thousand of their men. I want you to think about the number of men because Israel doesn't even number 45,000, and they're putting more than double the number of men to flight. Continuing in verse 22—²² for many fell dead because the war was God's. This is why they had victory.

I want you to put this all together. We know the principal to gain success in war is prayer and putting your trust in God. But there's an underlying fundamental principle laying the groundwork that comes first. That principle is this; the war must be God's. If it is God's war, can it be lost? No. It cannot be lost.

Let's follow this to its logical conclusion. If we go out and fight the LORD's battles, you cannot be defeated. This is what I was telling you a lesson or two ago. We are all invincible and indestructible; you can't be defeated because you're fighting for the LORD. So what's the moral of this? If you're going to fight, you better make sure you're fighting the LORD's battles. That one principle can change your life. If you're going to fight, fight the LORD's battles.

I want you to think about David for a second. David was so profound; his fame spread to the four corners of the earth for being one of the mightiest warriors that have ever lived. One of the mightiest warriors you will read about in the Bible is King David. David didn't lose; he just kept fighting. Scripture says that Saul has slain his thousands; David his ten thousand.

Why was this? Well, Abigail tells us the answer to this question. But first I want to give you a little background. Abigail was the wife of the scoundrel Nabal. When David needed help, he asked Nabal for help. Nabal rejected him; he did not help David. Abigail moved in wisdom and went behind the scene because David was going to slaughter Nabal's household. Look at what she said in 1 Samuel 25:27-28—²⁷ And now this present which your maidservant has brought to my Lord, let it be given to the young men who follow my Lord. ²⁸ Please forgive the trespass of your maidservant. For the LORD will certainly make for my Lord an enduring house, because my Lord fights the battles of the LORD, and evil was not found in him throughout his days. That is why. Because David fought the battles of the LORD. .

I think it's safe to say every one of you wants to be great. You want to make your mark in this age. We should want to be like the men and women that we read about in Bible. Millions of people have read about their actions and their sacrifices. I'm going to tell you; every single person in this room can be that great. You have the potential to do so. The question is, will you do it? Are you willing to fight the LORD's battles?

One of the primary reasons that we as believers fail to gain victory in battle is because we are not fighting the battles of the LORD. Rather, we are fighting battles for our purpose according to the dictates of our own heart. And when we do that, we fall into a trap, a snare, of the wicked one. We are set up for destruction and defeat. If we're going to talk about going to war in the spiritual realm where we are wrestling not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers, we need to understand there are battles we are called the fight, and there are battles we are not called to fight.

I want to give you some examples of what I'm talking about. I want to share with you the dangers of going to a battle that you're not called to go to and the effects that that will have on your life. This is the

first example. I want to take you back to the book of Numbers. This is a story we already covered in this series, but I want to take another look at the story from a different angle because I need to reiterate the backdrop of this story. The children of Israel have been commanded to go spy out the land. They send twelve spies out to do this task. Ten of the spies come back and give a bad report. They strike fear and dread into the hearts of their brothers, so they don't go up into the land and take the land by war.

You see, this is the battle of the LORD. They were commanded to do this battle. Because of this report, the children of Israel say, "We will not go up. The enemy is stronger than we are. We cannot win this battle. We want to return to Egypt." At this point, Joshua and Caleb start sowing righteousness and trying to talk sense into their brothers. They tell them—⁸ **If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.'** ⁹ **Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them** (Numbers 14:8-9).

That is a key component. When you go and fight the battles of the LORD, and the LORD is with you, you cannot lose. Imminent victory is coming. You cannot be defeated when you fight His battles. What Joshua and Caleb are telling their brothers is a compelling concept. They are saying; If God is for us, who can be against us?

Moving on to Numbers 14:10—**And all the congregation said to stone them with stones.** So how did the children of Israel respond to their wisdom and attempt to encourage them to do something God promised them and said He would be with them? Now they want to stone Caleb and Joshua.

Continuing in Numbers 14:10-11—**Now the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.** ¹¹ **Then the LORD said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?"** Dropping down to Numbers 14:22-23—²² **because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice,** ²³ **they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.**

What did the LORD do here? He just declared a death sentence against that generation. They were just sentenced to death. They were to die in the wilderness. Their children would go into the land, but this generation had just been sentenced to death.

How did the children of Israel respond to this command that the LORD had given? As we come to Numbers 14:39-40, we read—³⁹ **Then Moses told these words to all the children of Israel, and the people mourned greatly.** ⁴⁰ **And they rose early in the morning and went up to the top of the mountain, saying, "Here we are, and we will go up to the place which the LORD has promised, for we have sinned!"**

They change their mind after the LORD gave them a death sentence and told them they would rot in the wilderness. They now changed their mind. They said, "Now we're going to go up, and we're ready to fight this battle."

Well, look at how this unfolds in Numbers 14:41-42—⁴¹ **And Moses said, "Now why do you transgress the command of the LORD? For this will not succeed.** ⁴² **Do not go up, lest you be defeated by your enemies, for the LORD is not among you.** First God commands them to go up and take the land. They

wouldn't do that. Now He commands them not to go up, and now they want to go up. But the problem is, as Moses warns them; if you fight this battle, the LORD is not coming, and neither is Moses.

Continuing in Numbers 14:43-45—⁴³ For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and you shall fall by the sword; because you have turned away from the LORD, the LORD will not be with you." ⁴⁴ But they presumed to go up to the mountaintop; nevertheless, neither the ark of the covenant of the LORD nor Moses departed from the camp. ⁴⁵ Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who dwelt in that mountain came down and attacked them, and drove them back as far as Hormah.

That story is a perfect example of a battle that was not to be fought because it was a battle according to their purpose and their hearts. If you do that, you cannot win that battle. When you fully appreciate this concept, it will change your life forever. It will change whether or not you walk in the victory of the LORD. It will impact your military analytical skills. It will impact your decisions on whether to proceed or not proceed simply by asking the question, "Is the battle the LORD's, or is this a battle of my own doing?"

Let me give you another example. I think this example might hit a little bit close to home for many of you just because the person that we're dealing with is, in fact, King Josiah. The reason I say it might hit home is Josiah was a righteous man of God. He loved the LORD. Josiah is the man who restored the temple and tore down all the high places that had been established by his forefathers. When the temple was being restored, and they found the Torah scrolls and read them to Josiah, he tore his clothes, and he humbled himself before God.

In fact, the Bible goes on to say this concerning Josiah in 2 Chronicles 34:2—**And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of his father, David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.** I want you to understand something about the statement—**and [he] walked in the ways of his father, David.** There is no higher praise or accolade that a man could receive than that. This statement was reserved for very few kings that ever ascended to the throne, and yet this statement was made of Josiah.

This is the kind of man Josiah was which makes what we're about to read so terrifying. We go to 2 Chronicles 35:20-21—**when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by the Euphrates, and Josiah went out against him. ²¹ But he sent messengers to him, saying, "What have I to do with you, king of Judah? I have not come against you this day, but against the house with which I have war; for God commanded me to make haste. Refrain from meddling with God, who is with me, lest He destroys you."**

Now let me be clear about something; the god that Pharaoh Necho is referencing is none other than the God of Israel. This is something that is vitally important for you to pick up on if you're going to appreciate the reality of the situation and what's about to unfold. If you want to stay in the context here, you need to understand what god we talking about, who is speaking here, and who is telling whom to do what.

Now a lot of people might say, "Well Daniel, you know the term used there is Elohim, and at times this is a Hebraic term that can be a very liberal used term. It can refer to little gods. It can even refer to us as found in Psalm 82. Yeshua uses the term regarding His brethren in John 10:34—**Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods."**

I want to be very clear; nowhere in this passage or anywhere else can you construct that Pharaoh is coming to him in the name of the Egyptian gods. If he were to do that, he would come and say, "I come

to you in the name of Ra.” Because he was an Egyptian, He would not have used the terminology of Elohim because that would have been from a Hebraic perspective. He would have used the term Ra. Actually, he would have used the term Sekhmet. Sekhmet was the goddess of war, but he doesn’t do that. He said he came in the name of Elohim.

Let me press the point further because of how important it is to establish this context before we continue. I want to go to the Apocrypha book of 1 Esdras because in that book we find the Greek version of this story about Josiah. I want to take you there to establish this account. 1 Esdras 1:25-27—²⁵ After all these acts of Josiah, it happened that Pharaoh, king of Egypt, went to make war at Carchemish on the Euphrates, and Josiah went out against him. ²⁶ And the king of Egypt sent word to him saying, “What have we to do with each other, O king of Judea? ²⁷ I was not sent against you by the LORD God. By whom? The LORD God.

Now in the Greek, LORD God would be *kyrios theos* (κύριος θεός). If you translate that back into the Hebrew, it is *Yĕhovah 'Elohiym* (יהוה אלהים). I am showing you this because there is no question that the king of Egypt is coming to Josiah, who is a righteous God-fearing man, and telling him, “I am coming to you in the name of *Yĕhovah 'Elohim*, the God of Israel who created heaven and earth. This is the name the king of Egypt is utilizing.

Continuing in 1 Esdras 1:26—for my war is at the Euphrates. And now the LORD [יהוה] is with me! The LORD [יהוה] is with me, urging me on! Stand aside, and do not oppose the LORD.

To put this into further perspective, why is there conflict between Josiah and the king of Egypt? To help you understand this, I am going to use a map.



You'll notice Egypt is on the bottom left and Carchemish is in the center. The Assyrian empire was in the area of Carchemish at the time of the story. Egypt was called upon to assist the Assyrians against the Babylonians. The obvious way to get from Egypt to Assyrians was

through the land of Israel. That was the direct route. So the king of Egypt takes his men of war and goes traipsing through the land of Israel. Josiah, being king of Israel, is not going to put up with that. That was something that enrages him.

So how does Josiah respond to Pharaoh's warning in 2 Chronicles 35:22—**Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself so that he might fight with him, and did not heed the words of Necho from the mouth of God [of Israel]. So he came to fight in the Valley of Megiddo.** So we find despite this warning, Josiah goes to war. But ultimately he goes to war alone because God is not with him in this battle. Why not? Because the battle wasn't the LORD's.

This is such a vital principle for you to pick up on. This battle was not the LORD's. This battle was not a battle that Josiah was commanded to fight. It is a product of his heart, and this is a very scary thing to happen. Josiah was a righteous God-fearing man, and this is where we need to step back and carefully consider how easy it is for us to fall into the snare and trap of Satan.

We can never let down our guard because our adversary is not going to stop. Your flesh isn't going to stop nagging you to sin. The demons will try to come through different ways and manipulate you. They will whisper things in your ear and whisper things in your heart. They will tell you that you have no value and nobody loves you. They will tell you that you have no worth. Because of all these crazy demonic activities that go on, you cannot let your guard down for a millisecond.

Let me further put this story into context so you can feel the weight of this. There's another element to this story that exists, and I want to bring it to the table. If you read 2 Chronicles 34, you will find that there was a very important prophecy spoken over Josiah by Huldah, the prophetess. This is what the prophecy said in 2 Chronicles 34:28—**Surely I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace.**

I want to state something for the record; Huldah the prophetess was righteous. She spoke the words of the LORD. The prophecy that she prophesied over Josiah was 100% authentic. This is the prophecy that came to Josiah— **you shall be gathered to your grave in peace.** That was the word of the Living God.

Continuing in 2 Chronicles 34:28—**and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place and its inhabitants." So they brought back word to the king.** I want to ask this question; how do you think this prophecy might have affected Josiah's judgment? Might Josiah have considered this prophecy in his pursuit of Pharaoh Necho? Could Josiah have reasoned within himself that nobody can stop me in this battle because I know something; I have been prophesied over. I am indestructible. I am invincible. It doesn't matter what battle I fight because the LORD spoke to me and said I would go to the grave in peace.

Think about how great and perverse that deception is. Think about how utterly wicked the heart can be. Think about the depravity and depths of how crafty our adversary can be. Yes, it is true that a prophecy was spoken to Josiah in that he was to go to his grave in peace. There is no question about it. But I caution you; when you stop walking in the will of God for even a half of degree, do not think for a moment that you will achieve that promise and that success.

Let's look at another example. The LORD prophesied to the children of Israel and told them He was going to bring them to the land of milk and honey. He took them out of Egypt, and what happened? They died in the wilderness. God is a God of promise. They were prophesied over, yet they never entered the land. Why? Because they were fighting battles they were never called to fight, and they didn't fight the battles they were called to fight.

This is scary to me. When I read this story for the first time, it dropped me to my knees. It is one of those stories that drive me to my knees in fear of God. I was going, "Oh my goodness. I am detached from reality. I am so far from the kingdom." When you start seeing stuff like this and start seeing how crafty the adversary is and how quickly he can take you out, it puts things in perspective.

Let's take a peek at how this all turned out. 2 Chronicles 35:23-24—²³ And the archers shot King Josiah; and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am severely wounded." ²⁴ His servants, therefore, took him out of that chariot and put him in the second chariot that he had, and they brought him to Jerusalem. So he died. He did not go to the grave in peace. He died in battle. It was a battle he was never called to go and fight. Yes, the prophecy was true. Going to the grave in peace was God's will, but Josiah did not listen to God.

This reminds me of a passage in Ecclesiastes 7:17—Do not be overly wicked, nor be foolish. Why should you die before your time? That is an interesting passage. It indicates that we're all marked out; we know God has established a certain number of days for us. But do you know you can cut those days short by your foolishness? You can cut short the time the LORD has allowed to you in this life. I caution you; tread carefully and walk in humility. Walk in fear of God. Take this story and let it sink down into your heart.

This passage that we just read, I want to show it to you in the Greek version. 1 Esdras 1:28—Josiah, however, did not turn back to his chariot, but tried to fight with him, and did not heed the words of the prophet Jeremiah from the mouth of the LORD.

Isn't that interesting? If I had a pagan king come to me and say, "The LORD has said to me," as Necho did, I would call it into question because at first glance it would seem to be untrue. Necho, however, was right on the mark. And even the Greek version testifies that Jeremiah also made a warning.

Even the Jews from the first century and before understood what happened in this story. They knew that Josiah didn't even listen to the words of Jeremiah the prophet who was definitely speaking according to the words of the LORD.

Again, this is a story that makes me tremble with fear. What is so terrifying is all it takes in our life is a momentary lapse of judgment, and Satan will have us. That's how careful we have to walk.

When you get into Deuteronomy chapters 30 and 31 where it talks about the Feast of Sukkoth, we are told that every seven years all the men, women, and children are called to go up to the Temple in Jerusalem and do something. What is that? They are called to hear the Torah read aloud that they might fear the Living God. When we hear the stories in the Torah, it should strike a godly fear in our hearts so that we do not come off this razor blade of a path. It is like we are walking on a razor's edge. We cannot falter. We need the fear of the LORD. Take these stories seriously and fight the fight that we are called to fight.

I just want to say this before I get into our last story; we are called to fight battles. There are battles that the LORD sets in front of us that we are called the fight, and I just want to list out a couple of them so that you know what it is that we are called to do. We are called to fight against unbelief. We are called to fight against idolatry, covetousness, hatred, bitterness, strife, the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. I could go on and on with the list.

You are called to fight against your flesh. This is a battle against unbelief. You need to fight against pornography, adultery, covetousness, and idolatry.

I want to share this principle with you. As you're going through these temptations and you feel weak and feel there is no hope to the point you don't have any strength left, remember something; when you go and fight the battles of the LORD, He is with you.

Think about that. When we go to fight these battles, remind yourself of the truth; Yeshua is with you. You will gain victory. What Satan wants to tell you is, "You can't win. The flesh is too strong. Just give in. The temptation is too great." Satan and the demonic entities are whispering in your ears and whispering into your hearts. Push him out and remind him, "I can do all things through Messiah Yeshua who strengthens me."

Start quoting Scripture when you're in the midst of warfare and are suffering. When you are in a hellacious scenario, start quoting scripture. Start quoting the truth. Start pushing back the adversary who is destroying believers all over this country. I'm mesmerized by what is happening right now. Take captive every thought to the obedience of Yeshua. This is spiritual warfare. This is the battle we are called to fight. It is a battle we can't lose, but people are walking away from the battle.

I want to share one more story with you, and this last story is pretty compelling. It is another story to show us we're not called to fight every battle even when it appears to be right. That is how careful we have to be.

I'll give you a little backdrop to this story. We are going to the book of Jeremiah. The LORD raised Jeremiah to be a prophet. He raised other prophets as well to go out and tell the Jewish people, "Listen people. Judgment is coming, and destruction is coming to Jerusalem. I [God] am going to bring down Jerusalem by the king of Babylon." This is the message that Jeremiah and Uriah went out and preached.

Starting in Jeremiah 27:12-13—¹² I also spoke to Zedekiah king of Judah according to all these words, saying, "Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live!¹³ Why will you die, you and your people, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, as the LORD has spoken against the nation that will not serve the king of Babylon?"

Here God gives a warning to His people through the prophet Jeremiah. He tells them that they had better put their necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon or die. In other words, what the LORD is saying is they need to surrender to Babylon, give up their lands, give up their inheritance, possession, independence, and their freedom. Give it up.

Now let me be very clear. Nowhere will you find in the story, and I challenge you to read it, the LORD commanding the children of Israel, the Jewish people in the land of Judea, to go and start serving the gods of the Chaldeans. God did not tell the Israelites to start embracing the abomination of this pagan nation. Nowhere in Scripture will you find that stated.

You need to be very careful how you read the verse we just covered. What God is saying is that the Israelites need to walk away from all they had. They needed to walk away from their land, possessions, their animals, and their house. They need to walk away from it all

With that said, I want to go back a couple of chapters because the LORD is going to lay out a couple of terms we need to understand. Jeremiah 21:8—**Now you shall say to this people, 'Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death. Isn't that just like the LORD— I set before you the way of life and death?**

So what do the terms life and death mean? Well, the LORD clarifies them in Jeremiah 21:9-10—⁹**"He who remains in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence; but he who goes out and defects [surrenders in Hebrew] to the Chaldeans who besiege you, he shall live, and his life shall be as a prize to him. ¹⁰ For I have set My face against this city for adversity and not for good," says the LORD. "It shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire."**

You need to appreciate what is being said here in a historical context. If you want to feel the weight of what is going on, you need to understand how the Jewish people would have received this message and what this would have done to them. You need to remember that the LORD is the one who brought the Jewish people into the land to begin with. He brought them in by promise. He brought them into the Promised Land.

The Jews were eating and drinking the fat of the land. They were going up to the temple; they were dwelling in their own houses of their inheritance. They were dwelling with total independence and total freedom, and they were cherishing their independence. With that in mind, all of a sudden Jeremiah comes along and tells them that they have to give up everything. They need to walk away. Not just that, but they were told that they were going to give their possession to a pagan nation. These were people who were their enemies. Try to appreciate the context of all of that.

Jeremiah was running around saying these words. Can you imagine how insane he would have sounded to his brethren? Because of that, they wanted to kill him. You can read about that in Jeremiah 26. They were saying—**How dare you speak against this temple and our people.** It was blasphemous.

What they didn't realize is that Jeremiah was speaking according to the word of the LORD. To them, he was a traitor. To them, he was what we would call today unpatriotic. They would have been looking for a prophet to speak life and encouragement into them. They would expect him to remind them that the LORD gave them the land and they need never to give it up. They need to stand and fight.

What these men fail to realize is these were not the words of Jeremiah's own mind, and this is what is so terrifying. These were the words of the LORD. The more you read Scripture, the scarier it gets when you realize how far away from the LORD you are in your thought process. They did not realize that he spoke according to the word of the LORD.

Now that we know the complexities and the sensitivity of the situation, we read about the LORD warning the Jewish people with the following in Jeremiah 27:14—**Therefore do not listen to the words of the prophets who speak to you, saying, 'You shall not serve the king of Babylon,' for they prophesy a lie to you.**

One thing you need to realize is it is times like this when the LORD is about to bring judgment upon the land we find the false prophets start coming out of the woodwork. It's like a signal for them to start coming out of every hole and orifice in the land. False prophets are on the scene wreaking havoc on the

people. Do you know why it is easy for false prophets to speak? Because they always appeal to the flesh and the dictates of the heart.

It is easy to get people on your side when you tell them what they want to hear. If you promise them what they want, they will believe you. Marketing firms have figured this out. That is why they can come up with a new diet gimmick every other week and sell millions. Companies could sell millions of placebos because the marketers are telling people that they will lose one hundred pounds in three weeks if they take these things. Telling people what they want to hear sells.

Think about the lottery. The lottery is for people who are mathematically challenged and understand nothing about odds. The odds are: you are going to lose. Yet, the salespeople tell them that they will be rich beyond measure. They will be able to fulfill all those covetous desires their heart has ever had. What you have got to understand is this; when people are coming up and telling you things you want to hear, it's easy to accept it. False prophets operate on that measurement.

Let's get back to our story. How do you think things turned out for those who rebelled against Babylon even after the LORD warned the king of Israel? It went down pretty horrible. In fact, when the king of Judea, Zedekiah, rebelled against the king of Babylon, the king of Babylon had his children slaughtered in front of his eyes and then had Zedekiah's eyes ripped out. The last thing he got to see was his children dying.

That's what happened, but the LORD had warned them, "You will die by the sword if you do not put your neck under the king of Babylon; you will die horrible deaths." And that is exactly what happened.

So when we look at this principle and put it in context, if you're going to fight, you better make sure you are fighting the battles of the LORD. Do not get involved fighting battles you are not called to fight. You cannot win. It is like playing the lottery. It is stupidity. Don't do it.

I want to share something with you. The first time I truly studied this story in Jeremiah, and the LORD revealed something to me, was probably close to ten years ago. It was one of those times in my life the LORD showed me something marvelous. I knew the Holy Spirit had come down and revealed something to me. On many levels, this story was life changing.

In fact, one of the thrusts behind Death of America series was a passage in Ezekiel. But there was another passage that was pushing the Death of America series. That passage was something I never mentioned in that series, but it was a passage from Jeremiah. It was this story that we are covering in Jeremiah.

When I read this story, something was revealed to me. I saw something that I had never seen before. It was something eerie. When I read the story, I saw this story coming to life. This very scenario is happening in the United States of America.

Let me explain what I mean. America, like Judah, was a nation blessed by God. Churches thrived. Morality, at one time, was the expectation. The Bible was the code of conduct. It was revered by men and women alike. Even in government positions and the schools, righteousness permeated the very pores of the fabric of our society. Biblical principles were woven throughout the tapestry of our society.

There was once a time when teachers were leading the kids in prayer in public schools. These were not private schools; they were public schools. There was a time when abortion was considered an atrocity and not a government-protected right. There was once a time that adultery was the exception, not the rule.

But like Judah, America has turned from the ways of the Living God, and we have embraced abominations. We have built high places everywhere, and they have come into the Church. It's interesting that at the time God brought Babylon in to conquer Judea, Judah had defiled the Temple. We have desecrated our temples here in America. We have brought sexual immorality, adultery, and homosexuality into the church. We are promoting it from the heart of the church. It's unbelievable!

I'm going to tell you what Jeremiah told his brethren. He told them, "Judgment is coming. If you had eyes to see and ears to hear you would already know it's already unfolding." Fear has gripped the hearts of the people in this country and elsewhere. People are buying land, digging holes in the ground, and putting bunkers in all over this country.

Do you know what the number one issue is that is being talked about during this presidential campaign and debate? It is immigration. Why does that fascinate me? Read Deuteronomy 28. When the LORD God brought judgments against Israel, what was one of the things stated in Deuteronomy 28 that would happen or be imposed? God would take the foreigner and the alien, and he would raise them higher and higher upon the inhabitants. That is the very same thing, the very structure of judgment, which is unfolding in this nation right now. It is so subtle that you cannot even see it's happening, yet it is right in front of your eyes. The things that are on the front pages of our newspapers you can find by reading the Torah. Same things that happened to Israel are unfolding right before our eyes.

We're at this moment of judgment. What we can expect are false prophets to be running amok just as in the story of Jeremiah. They will be going out and deceiving the people. Listen to what Dr. Michael Evans says—[Where are those who weep for America, who grieve for her sins of arrogance? Millions of professing Christians have closed their eyes to what is happening. Many preachers are even telling jokes in the pulpit and mocking those who are weeping over impending judgment \(Dr. Michael Evans. Jerusalem Prayer Team\).](#)

His statement is true. It is not a joke. I have heard these people preaching on the radio. There are pastors, teachers, and preachers out there saying, "That is ridiculous. We are a nation of God. We do not have to worry about judgment." They say this with a fervent passion, so it must be true. They're out there telling the people, "We will not experience judgment because there are too many righteous men of God."

Jeremiah was righteous. Daniel was righteous. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were righteous. There were many righteous men carried off into Babylon. They were far more righteous than what we have here in America. Think about that. Now instead of having people fast and pray, we have people stocking up on food and weapons.

Think about what's going on here. Think about how we're rationalizing what we know is coming. In fact, there was an article that I want you to see—[The FBI processed a record number of firearm-related background checks last year, indicating that more guns were sold in 2015 than in any previous year in](#)

[American history](#) (Stephen Gutowski. January 4, 2016 4:00 pm. *2015: The Year of the Gun. All-time record number of background checks processed.* The Washington Free Beacon). In 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 we broke records for gun sales.

What is this telling you? Go back and look at what they did in Jerusalem. When they were told that the days when judgment was upon them, when they were warned Babylon was coming and they were going to die, what did they do? Kicked in their heels, and they armed themselves.

I'm telling you right now; Americans are arming themselves. Why? Because they're getting ready to go to war.

It is interesting that the government is buying ammunition off the charts. We've got the Postal Service buying bullets. Why does the United States Postal Service need bullets? Are there that many dogs, or is there something bigger going on here?

There is a very important lesson you need to go home and ponder. God brought the Jewish people under judgment by bringing in the Babylonians. God used Jeremiah to warn them. There is now an eerie, similar situation unfolding right before our eyes today. That is this; there is going to be war in this country. There's no question about that to me.

What I am going to pose to you is this; is that a fight you are called to fight? Is that the LORD's battle?